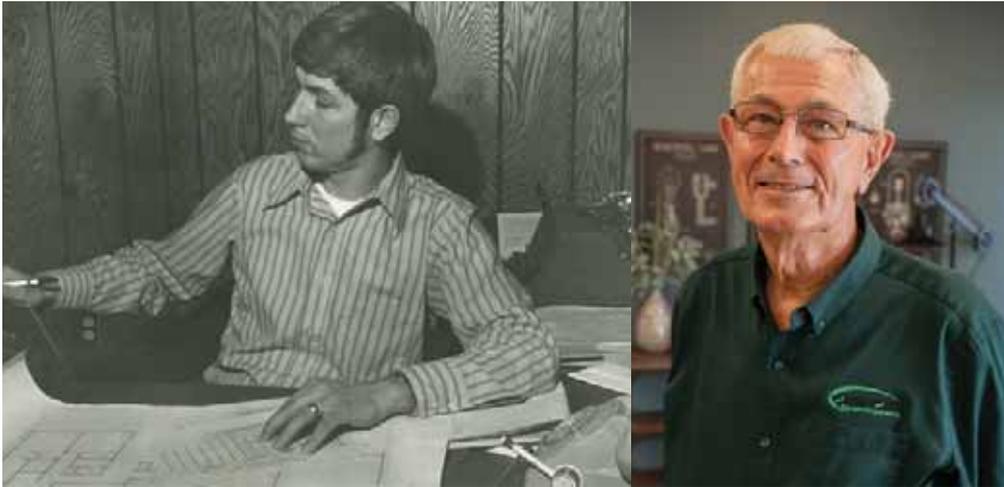


COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

January 2026



After over 55 years of service to Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, former employee and director Dale Harris recently resigned from the Board of Directors after moving out of the Wayne-White Electric service territory. We thank Dale for his many years of service to Wayne-White Electric, and wish him well.

55 Years of Dedication to Wayne-White Electric

WHEN DALE HARRIS STARTED his journey at Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, he probably never dreamed that after working for the cooperative for 35 years, he would then spend an additional 20 years serving on the Board of Directors.

Dale began his career at Wayne-White Electric on January 25, 1968, in the member services department under cooperative manager Sam Miller. The Beatles had the number one song in the UK with Hello Goodbye, gas was approximately \$0.34 a gallon, and the

cooperative had just ended a promotion that provided a free nine-piece set of West Bend Teflon cookware for members who purchased their first electric range.

Needless to say, Dale has seen a lot of changes in his time serving Wayne-White Electric.

Dale served in the member services department for seven years before moving into a position in the billing department as cashier and computer tech in 1975.

As the cooperative continued to evolve and technology continued to advance, Dale moved to the engineering department in 1979 as an engineering tech. The move was prompted by the bad ice storm of 1979 as they needed all the help they could get in this department at the time.

Eventually Dale would become the Manager of Engineering when his predecessor Bill Bennet retired. He

At the young age of 23 years old, Dale Harris began his career at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. He probably never dreamed that this job would lead to over fifty-five total years of service to the cooperative.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- January 1 - Closed: New Year
- January 2 - Bills Generated
- January 3 - Bills Out in Mail
- January 10 - Cut Energy Day
- January 15 - Bills Due
- **January 15 - Enfield Open**
- January 27 - Board Meeting
- **January 29 - Enfield Open**
- February 2 - Bills Generated

CONTACT US

Wayne-White
Electric Cooperative

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www.waynewhitecoop.com

Mailing Address

PO Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837

Physical Address

1501 W. Main St., Fairfield, IL 62837

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Board of Directors

Directors are voted on at each Annual Meeting by the membership. If the election is not contested, the director running will be elected by acclamation.

Chairman

Bryan Williams.....District 5

Vice Chairman

Ken Lamont District 4

Secretary

Andy GloverDistrict 3

Treasurer

Richard RubenackerDistrict 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton District 1

Vernon Gwaltney.....District 2

David HunsingerDistrict 6

Richard Talbert.....District 8

Noel Edmison.....District 9

Contact your Board of Directors by emailing:
directors@wwcec.com

2026 Enfield Office Open Dates

The Enfield office at 152 IL Highway 14 will be open on the following dates in 2026:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| January 15 & 29 | February 12 & 26 |
| March 12 & 26 | April 14 & 28 |
| May 14 & 28 | June 11 & 25 |
| July 14 & 30 | August 13 & 27 |
| September 15 & 29 | October 15 & 29 |
| November 12 & 24 | December 15 & 29 |

*Disconnect dates will be the above dates listed at the end of the month. For example, January's disconnect date will be on Thursday, January 29, 2026.



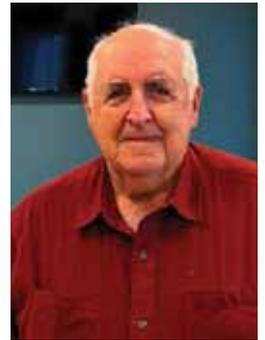
kept that position until he was moved to the Manager of Special Projects. This position took his engineering knowledge and had him implementing the SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system). This system was put in place to monitor, control and manage power generation and distribution. In other words, it provides the cooperative with real time information from our equipment out on the system.

Dale retired on March 8, 2003, after working at the cooperative for thirty-five years. After just two years of retirement, Dale returned to serve the cooperative, this time as a Director. Dale replaced Delman Bradshaw in 2005.

During his time on the Board of Directors, Dale served as the cooperative's representative at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for three years.

With 55 years of service, comes a wealth of knowledge about the electric industry, our territory, and the cooperative in general. All of that knowledge and dedication will be deeply missed by the cooperative and the Board of Directors. We sincerely thank Dale for his many years of service to the cooperative and wish him nothing but the best in his new endeavors.

With Dale's departure comes a new, but not so new director to District 2. After interviews, the Board appointed Vernon Gwaltney to fill the vacant director seat.



Vernon is a familiar face to the cooperative, as he previously served on the Board of Directors from 1984 to 1996.

A Wayne-White Electric member since 1975, Vernon and his wife Mary Lou live south of Fairfield. They have 3 adult children: Kiley Gwaltney, Kayla Keck, and Katy Stinson.

Vernon is a retired grain and livestock farmer who earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Southern Illinois University.

As a Director in the 1980s and 1990s, Vernon completed several electric cooperative director training courses.

He has also held various offices during a twelve-year stint on the Fairfield Community High School Board.

Vernon and Mary Lou attend the New Hope General Baptist Church where he is a trustee.

The term for District 2 is set to expire at the next annual meeting on June 12, 2026. 



2026 Rebate Program & NEW Smart Thermostat Program

AT WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC, WE are pleased to offer several different incentive rebate programs related to making your home more energy efficient. These rebates are made possible through a program offered by our generation and transmission cooperative, Hoosier Energy.

Just as we offered last year, we will continue our rebate program offerings for air source, dual fuel, geothermal, and mini-split heat pumps, hybrid water heaters, HVAC tune-ups, and electric outdoor equipment. Basically, if you purchase any of these items to make your home more efficient and they meet the listed qualifications, you could be eligible to receive money back on your purchase!

In 2026, all rebates \$500 and below will automatically be returned to you as a credit on your electric bill through Wayne-White Electric. Those credits larger than \$500 will have the option of being returned as a check mailed to the member if they do not prefer a bill credit.

Shown below is the break-down of each of the incentive rebate programs for 2026. We hope many of our members will take advantage of these opportunities to become more efficient. Not only will you save money when you purchase the equipment, but you will also save money in the long run on your electric bills!

Air Source/Dual Fuel Heat Pumps:

- 14.3-15.3 SEER2 = \$300 incentive
- 15.4-17.2 SEER2 = \$400 incentive
- 17.3 & up SEER2 = \$500 incentive

Geothermal Heat Pumps = \$2,000 incentive.

Mini-Split Heat Pumps (must be 17.3 SEER2 or higher):

- Multi-Zone = \$500 incentive
- Single-Zone = \$300 incentive

Water Heaters:

- Heat Pump/Hybrid = \$500
- Wi-Fi Enabled Electronic Storage = \$200

Electric Outdoor Equipment (50% off purchased equipment up to \$50/\$150):

- Handheld Equipment = up to \$50
- Push Equipment = up to \$50
- Riding Equipment = up to \$150

HVAC Tune-Up = 50% off service cost up to \$50

To receive a rebate, all you have to do is fill out our application and include a copy of your invoice and the AHRI certificate for the product. Forms can be printed off of our website, or there is online fillable forms available as well.

To learn more or apply, visit our website at www.waynewhitecoop.com



A new program now available through the cooperative is the Connect to Save - smart thermostat program. Connect to Save is an innovative new program that enables Wayne-White Electric and our members to work together to keep rates as low as possible for everyone.

By enrolling in the program, members give the cooperative limited access to smart thermostat devices in their homes. During certain days of the year, called “adjustment events,” the cooperative can make slight, time-limited alterations to enrolled devices to reduce demand at peak times. This saves money for you, your cooperative and your fellow members.

You may wonder, “What good can come from adjusting my thermostat a couple of degrees?” Think of all the devices in your home that use power -- lights, computers,

appliances and more. Your heating and cooling system accounts for most of the energy your home uses. As a matter of fact, the average home in the United States uses a staggering 53% of its annual electricity on heating and cooling. When temperatures outside are at their highest or lowest, peak demand can require the cooperative to purchase additional power, leading to rate increases on members’ power bills that nobody wants.

By enrolling in Connect to Save, members give the cooperative the ability to adjust the amount of energy their smart thermostats use. Participating members will be notified at least an hour in advance that their connected smart thermostats will be slightly adjusted -- never more than four degrees -- for a maximum of four hours.

So, what do you get in return for participating in this program other than saving energy and lowering your electric bill? Wayne-White Electric is offering a one-time \$75 enrollment incentive when members sign up for the program. Members who stay on and participate in the program will then receive a \$25 annual incentive per device.

To participate in the program, you must:

- Be a current Wayne-White Electric residential member in good standing
- Have a dependable wireless network at your service address
- Have an account linked to your enrolled device
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the Connect to Save program

Thermostats that qualify for the program include:

- Ecobee
- Honeywell
- Renew Home (formerly Google Nest)
- Sensi
- *Members who purchase a new thermostat are responsible for the installation. We do not sell the thermostats.

Wayne-White Electric members can learn more about the Connect to Save program and find the link to sign up to participate on our website at: www.waynewhitecoop.com

Welcome New Employee, Jordan Greenwalt



JORDAN GREENWALT HAS JOINED the Wayne-White Electric Cooperative family as a

staking engineer.

Jordan comes to Wayne-White Electric from Sydenstricker Nobbe Partners - John Deere where he was a Product and Precision Ag Specialist.

A graduate of Wayne City High School, Jordan now resides in Fairfield with his wife Shelby and son Beau, as well as their two dachshunds Lincoln and Rocket.

When he is not at work, Jordan enjoys spending time with his family and going hunting with friends.

If members call in to set up new service, you will be scheduled an appointment to meet with Jordan to help stake out your new electric service.

Please help us welcome Jordan to the Wayne-White Electric family! 🌿



Safety Demonstration for Frontier College Lineworker Students

WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC RECENTLY HAD the privilege to present a Live Line Safety Demonstration to the students in the Electrical Distribution Systems program at Frontier Community College in Fairfield.

A program that is typically geared to electrical safety for grade school aged children, was transformed to tailor to adult students studying to be in line work.

Wayne-White Electric linemen Nathan Coston, Joseph Rodgers, Tyler Lashbrook, Clint Harl, and Craig Rennie presented hands-on information to the students that they are currently learning about in their classes from instructor Dustin Wiggins.

Demonstrations included showing students how to safely exit your vehicle if a live powerline is on the vehicle and your car catches fire. (NOTE: If your car is NOT on fire, DO NOT try to exit the vehicle until a lineman is able to safely remove the line from your car.)

Pictured at right is what happens when a mylar balloon gets into a live electrical line. Not only is it bright, but it can also knock out power to members in the area.

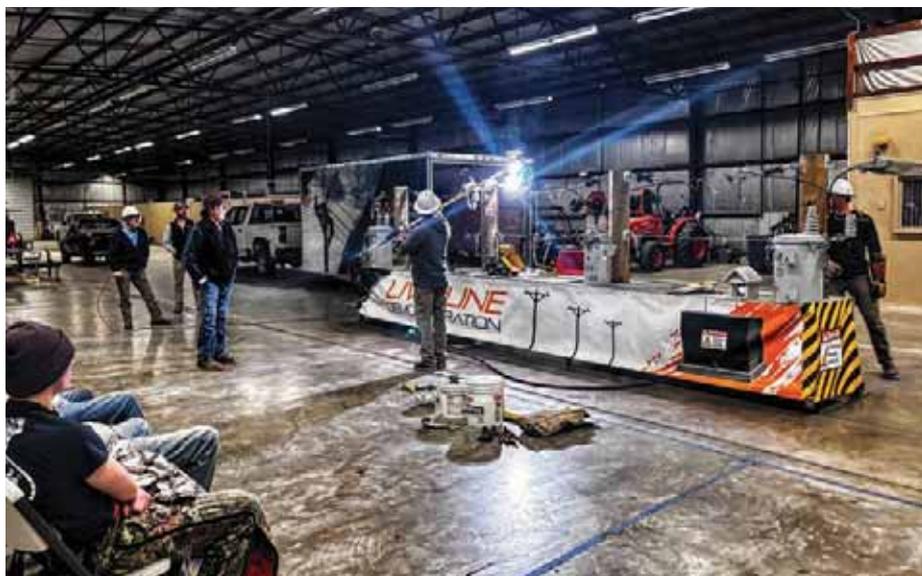
The students also had the chance to explore all of the nooks and crannies of

Nathan's bucket truck. Excellent questions were asked, and discussions were had regarding real-life situations they may face when on the job as a lineworker.

Former FCC line worker students and current Wayne-White Electric Linemen Joseph Rodgers and Tyler Lashbrook were

happy to give back to the program they participated in when starting their lineman journeys.

If you would like to schedule a live line for your business, group, or school, contact Wayne-White Electric Cooperative at (618) 842-2196. 🌿



Wayne-White Electric Lineman Tyler Lashbrook shows the linemen students at Frontier Community College what happens when a mylar balloon makes connection with a live electric line. Linemen Clint Harl, Craig Rennie, Nathan Coston and Joseph Rodgers were also on hand (pictured left to right) to assist in the demonstrations for the day.