

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

February 2026

Kim Retires After 32 Years at Wayne-White

JANUARY 3, 1994: A young Kimberley Rodgers walked into her first day at her new job at Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, wondering what the future would hold.

January 8, 2026: She walked out as a retired woman after 32 years of service at that same place.

In January 1994, the Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl, the movie Four Weddings and a Funeral premiered, a gallon of gas was \$1.11, and bills at Wayne-White Electric were still processed by hand.

Spending her whole career on the billing side of things, Kim experienced many updates and changes in billing technology in her 32 years: going from manual, hand-written meter readings and bills, to being able to complete the whole process by computer.

Kim reflected on the fact that technology and the computer systems have made a big difference in the efficiency of her job in her time working at Wayne-White Electric. Not only did it make the billing process more efficient, but outage situations were improved as well.

She remembered when all of their communications during outages were done by the radios

After over 30 years of employment at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, Kimberley Rodgers has officially put away the calculator as of January 8, 2026.

instead of by phones as they are now. When mapping outages, they spread a large map out on the table and took the data coming in by phone to pinpoint where the outages were and where the issues might be.

When asked what a favorite memory from



working at Wayne-White Electric was, she reminisced about when she was pregnant with her youngest son, Eric. “They threw me a diaper party, and seeing those linemen carry in diapers and gifts was overwhelming.”

As far as her plans for retirement, the first thing Kim is looking forward to is sleeping in. Kim is also excited to start traveling with family and friends.

When she is not traveling, she is looking forward to being able to spend more time with family, including her husband Andy and their adult children: Kara (Jared), Matthew (Kristyn), Joseph (Katelyn), and Eric. She is really

looking forward to watching and helping more often with her six grandchildren: Karlee, Liana, Renli, Rory, Everly, and Eli.

We thank Kim for her many years of service and dedication to Wayne-White Electric, and wish her the best in her retirement! 

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- February 2 - Bills Generated
- February 3 - Bills Out in Mail
- **February 12 - Enfield Open**
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 16 - Bills Due!
- Nat'l Engineers Week 2/21-28
- February 24 - Board Meeting
- **February 26 - Enfield Open**

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 WilliamsDistrict 5

Vice Chairman

Ken LamontDistrict 4

Secretary

Andy GloverDistrict 3

Treasurer

Richard RubenackerDistrict 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton..... District 1

Vernon GwaltneyDistrict 2

David HunsingerDistrict 6

Richard TalbertDistrict 8

Noel EdmisonDistrict 9

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

Unclaimed Capital Credits List

The unclaimed capital credits list has been updated on the Wayne-White Electric Cooperative website.

Over 7,600 entries are currently on the unclaimed capital credits list.

If you, a family member, or an estate is on the list on our website, you can contact our office at (618) 842-2196. There is also a Capital Credits Inquiry Form available online that you can fill out to verify an account that is listed.

Please review the list of unclaimed accounts on our website at: www.waynewhitecoop.com/your-account/capital-credits

Helping Community Members in Need

WORKS Roundup & Scranton Funds Aid Folks with Hardships

DISASTERS, SERIOUS ILLNESS, ACCIDENTAL tragedies, and family emergencies seem to always occur when we least expect it. Unfortunately, many people and organizations seem to “fall through the cracks” of the system when they genuinely need assistance. We all know of cases where this has happened. When tragedy hits close to home, it is nice to have a place to turn for assistance to get back on your feet again.

We have the perfect idea in a program called Operation Roundup which was created several years ago by another electric cooperative in South Carolina. We began a local effort 24 years ago through our electric cooperative membership which we call WORKS: Wayne-White Operation Roundup Kare and Share.

It is a simple idea that has provided assistance to a lot of people and organizations simply by donating some extra change each month. For example, if your electric bill is \$63.53, it would be rounded up to \$64.00, with the 47 cents being contributed directly to the Works foundation. Although that may not seem like much, your extra change multiplied by over 13,000 other meters of the cooperative, enable the Works program to fill in some of the “cracks” of the system.

Last year (2025) the program raised \$54,709.05 due to the generosity of members just like yourself. The foundation is governed by a Board of Directors that are cooperative members just like you. It is totally separate from the Wayne-White Electric Board of Directors. The Works board members review grant applications and determine where the charitable funds will be distributed.

By having your electric bill rounded up each month, your total annual contribution to Works will be less than \$12.00. Since the program’s inception in 2002, Works has generated foundation funds of \$1,185,981.81 with a total of \$1,176,141.96 being dispursed to needy individuals and organizations.

If you wish to participate, you do not

have to do anything. Our billing system will automatically round up your bill. There is also a form that you can sign if you want to donate a certain amount monthly or if you want to make a one-time donation. However, if you wish to opt out of the Works program, you may do so by contacting our office at (618) 842-2196.

Another assistance program that you can contribute to that helps benefit families affected by cancer is the Dr. Dennis Scranton Memorial Fund. Through this fund, your generous donation can benefit local residents who have ongoing expenses related to active cancer treatments at a recognized treatment center.

The Dr. Dennis Scranton Fund was established after the passing of Dr. Scranton, who died in an automobile accident near Fairfield in 2003. His widow, Tracy Scranton, said her husband had often expressed the need for a fund of this type. He recognized that patients had trouble funding their cancer treatments and related travel expenses to go and seek treatment. In the past year, \$18,000 was given out to help cancer patients with travel costs and more.

The fund is totally dependent on donations by the public. The fund is limited to patients receiving active treatment for cancer such as surgery, radiation or chemo. The fund is overseen by the Works board at Wayne-White Electric.

If you or a family member dealing with cancer is interested in receiving funds, there is an application process. Qualified recipients can receive up to \$500 in assistance in a calendar year to benefit their needs in seeking cancer treatment. If you wish to donate, you can send your financial gift to Dennis Scranton Memorial Fund, PO Box 700, Fairfield, IL 62837 or drop off your donation at our office in Fairfield. For questions, call us at (618) 842-2196 or visit waynewhitecoop.com for more information or to apply. 

2026 Annual Meeting Planning Begins

Annual Meeting Scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2026 at Wayne City

THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING for members of the Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative will be on Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Wayne City School Complex. Plans are currently being finalized for the meal and entertainment, with the meal set to begin at 5pm, entertainment to begin shortly after 6pm, and the business meeting will be called to order at 7pm.

All current Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative members will receive their Annual Meeting Booklet with their registration sheet and meeting information towards the end of May. The Annual Meeting book will now be combined with the Illinois Country Living magazine and our newsletter in the center section.

Three board of director's seats will be up for election at the 2026 meeting. They are seats currently held by Vernon Gwaltney of Fairfield (District #2), Andy Glover of Mt. Erie (District #3), and David Hunsinger of Carmi (District #6). Any member of the electric cooperative is eligible to pick-up a petition to run for a seat, if they live in

one of the three districts mentioned above. Petitions can be picked up at the cooperative beginning March 14, 2026, and must be returned with signatures to the Fairfield cooperative office by April 28, 2026. The map below shows the nine (9) board districts, and the current board members, along with their seat and location.

With Annual Meeting plans coming along, so too are our applications for the Annual Meeting Scholarship.

For the fifth year in a row, Wayne-White Electric will award ten (10) \$500 scholarships at our Annual Meeting at Wayne City High School on June 12, 2026. A very simple application form is now available at our office or on our website. Each student who enters must be the child of an active Wayne-White Electric Cooperative member. (Please note, customers of the City of Fairfield are not members and would not be eligible.)

While applications from a child of a Wayne-White Electric employee or board member are not eligible, any of their

grandchildren are eligible to apply. Students can choose to attend a community college or university and must be enrolled full-time at that institution in the upcoming 2026 fall semester. Verification of enrollment will have to be provided to the cooperative before payment will be issued to the recipient's institution of choice.

Winners will be selected through a random drawing on April 14, 2026, from all applications received, and will be notified by contact info provided on their application. The deadline to submit an application is April 10, 2026, by 5pm. All winners will be required to attend our Annual Meeting on June 12.

Applications can be printed and mailed to PO Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837 or dropped off at our office. They can also be faxed to (618) 842-4497 or emailed to Alyssa Parrott at aparrott@wwcec.com. Electronic applications are available through our website at waynewhitecoop.com

Call us at (618) 842-2196 for more information. 

Board of Directors District Map



DISTRICT #1
Larry Hosselton
Clay City

DISTRICT #2
Vernon Gwaltney
Fairfield

DISTRICT #3
Andy Glover
Mt. Erie

DISTRICT #4
Ken Lamont
Crossville

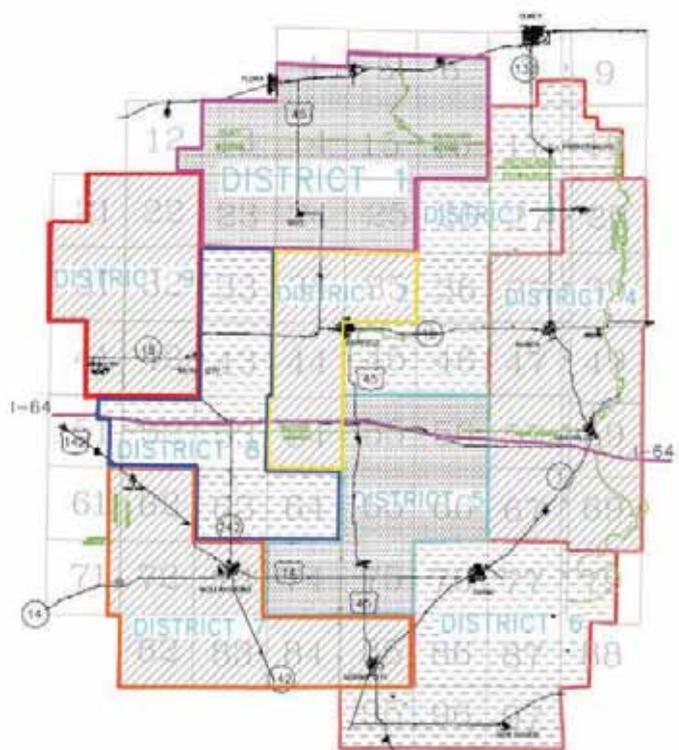
DISTRICT #5
Bryan Williams
Enfield

DISTRICT #6
David Hunsinger
Carmi

DISTRICT #7
Rick Rubenacker
McLeansboro

DISTRICT #8
Richard Talbert
Wayne City

DISTRICT #9
Noel Edmison
Wayne City



Heat Pumps: What Exactly Are They?

Wayne-White Electric has rebates for heat pumps, but....how do they work?

MAYBE YOU WERE IN the process of buying a new home, watching the latest episode of your favorite house-hunting reality show, or just making small talk at the office water cooler when you heard the term “heat pump.” Perhaps you then wondered what it is or what it does. Although it has the word heat in its name, it does more than help warm your home.

What are heat pumps and how do they work? In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (similar to how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, a heat pump takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors, helping to make your home cooler. In the cooler months, a heat pump produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside, which helps to warm your home.

Do they save energy? Since heat pumps move heat, instead of creating it, they do save energy. Energy.gov estimates that today’s heat pumps can reduce a home’s electricity use for heating by up to 75% compared to traditional systems like furnaces and baseboard heaters.

Heat pumps for larger homes can save energy with a zone-heating feature, warming only rooms that are in use. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard systems, resulting in less energy usage.

Is there more than one type of heat pump? Four primary types of heat pumps exist:

1. Air-to-Air or Air-Source pumps are the most common and are powered by electricity. They have an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler. It then circulates the warmed or cooled air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms. For homes without air ducts, air-source heat pumps are also available in a ductless version called a **mini-split heat pump**.

2. Air-to-Water heat pumps are actually a special type of air-source heat pump called a “reverse cycle chiller” that generates hot and cold water rather than air, allowing it to be used with radiant floor heating systems.

3. Geothermal heat pumps, also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps, can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water source), according to Energy.gov. Geothermal pumps cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs since they take advantage of relatively constant ground or water temperatures. They are typically more efficient and can be used in more extreme climates than air-source heat pumps (although air-source technology has improved).

4. Absorption heat pumps are similar to air-source heat pumps except instead of using electricity to operate, they use alternative energy sources such as natural gas or propane (also known as a dual fuel heat pump), or solar- or geothermal-heated water.

As you have read in previous newsletters, Wayne-White Electric provides rebates on new heat pump installations as an incentive to make your home more efficient. Rebate amounts are determined by the type of heat pump installed, and the SEER2 and HSPF2 ratings of the unit.

To determine the best heat pump system for your home, contact a reputable heat pump installer/contractor to assess your home’s needs.

To learn more about our rebates or find a list of area HVAC contractors, visit our website at www.waynewhitecoop.com/energy-solutions/rebates.

For questions, give us a call at (618) 842-2196. 

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Enrolling in autodraft payments with your utility provider can help prevent certain types of utility bill scams. If a scammer contacts you with fake disconnection threats, you can rest easy knowing your bill is paid automatically through a pre-arranged, secure channel. Autodraft payments also eliminate the risk of exposing checks and personal banking info through the mail. If your utility offers autodraft payments, consider enrolling to stay on track and avoid certain scams.

Source: AARP

