

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

March 2026



Safety has always been our top priority - for our employees and our members. Here, several Wayne-White Electric linemen demonstrated safety techniques to the linemen students at Frontier Community College.

Wayne-White Recognized at Safety Conference

SAFETY LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING were the focus of the 2026 Safety and Energy Conference, held January 28-29, 2026, in Springfield, Illinois. The two-day event brought together electric cooperative professionals, safety leaders and industry partners for educational sessions, networking and recognition of outstanding safety performance.

In order to complete the RESAP program, five inspectors visited each facility to examine our facilities and processes. These inspectors verified that Wayne-White Electric was following all National Electric Safety Codes and OSHA codes of conduct.

The conference, which was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, covered a range of topics focused on leadership, safety and workplace culture. These topics dove into specific areas including personal influence

and leadership, technical safety training, and the role of safety culture in the workplace.

Safety awards were also presented, recognizing cooperatives for exemplary safety performance over the past year. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative was proud to be recognized for outstanding workplace practices by earning the 2025 RESAP Certificate of Achievement.

This certificate indicates that the cooperative completed the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, a program that was developed to maintain a culture of safety at cooperatives. By participating in the program, cooperatives commit to safety as an organizational value through training, educating and assessing its workforce.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety will continue to be a top priority. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative will always be committed to a strong safety culture for our employees, our communities, and our cooperative members. 

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- March is Ladder Safety Month
- March 2 - Bills Generated
- March 3 - Bills Out in Mail
- March 8 - Daylight Savings!
- **March 12 - Enfield Open**
- March 16 - Bills Due!
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- **March 20 - 1st Day of Spring**
- March 24 - Board Meeting
- **March 26 - Enfield Open**

CONTACT US

Wayne-White
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Mailing Address

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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

AirMedCare Network

For the last several years, Wayne-White Electric has partnered with AirMedCare Network to provide our members a special "members only" discounted rate. Membership to AirMedCare Network is available through an affordable billing plan of just \$5 per month added to your electric bill.

AirMedCare Network membership offers significant cost-saving benefits. In the event you are flown by an AirMedCare Network provider for a life- or limb-threatening emergency, we will work with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight.

Several hundred Wayne-White Electric Cooperative members have already signed up for an AirMedCare Network membership through the \$5 monthly addition to their electric bill. If you have not signed up yet, what are you waiting for?

You can find the application on our website at:
www.waynewhitecoop.com

Keeping Your Electricity Reliable

Despite Growing Energy Demand

AS YOUR LOCAL POWER provider, our mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity does not happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid: through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions do occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.

The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated switching capabilities, smart meters, and our SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system allow us to detect problems faster and respond more efficiently. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data



that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently. Crews are currently working on rebuilding the transmission line from Johnsonville to north of Geff. This project will bring the tenth automated switch to Wayne-White Electric's system.

Implementing innovative technologies requires thoughtful planning and financial investment and the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life - from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow. 

Generator Program Saves You Money

If you have a whole home generator, this program might be for you!

WAYNE-WHITE ELECTRIC OFFERS A “voluntary” load control program that will provide homeowners with an incentive for allowing us to control your whole house generator during peak demand times in the summer and winter. Homeowners with stand-by generators could potentially have their power needs switched over to the generator during the load-control time. By participating in this voluntary program, the cooperative will give you a significant discount on your electric bill year-round. To qualify, you must have a stand-by generator with an approved automatic switch for our DRU (demand response unit) to be able to interrupt your power during our peak times. Your generator should also be large enough to handle the entire load for your home.

With your whole-house generator in place, you will not be without electricity. You can only sign up for the program at two different times per year: each summer and winter. **The deadline to sign up and have your generator installed for this summer is May 15, 2026.** You would then effectively be in the program beginning June 1, 2026. You must remain in the program for at least

12 months once you sign up. (NOTE: City of Fairfield customers are not eligible.)

You can buy your generator at the dealer of your choice. We do not sell them or install them. It does not matter what brand of generator you have, as long as it is large enough to handle the electric load for your home, which in most cases will likely need to be a 20 KW model.

This program is not for generators at businesses or to power farm equipment, such as grain bins or irrigation systems -- ONLY for residential homes on Wayne-White Electric lines.

If you install your generator prior to our summer and winter program dates, you can sign-up for our generator program early. You will begin seeing the benefits of the discount on the date closest to your install, assuming you have met the guidelines for proper sizing, and we have installed the DRU unit to control it remotely by that date.

For additional details, including proper sizing requirements based upon your load, call our engineering department at (618) 842-2196.

Area Generator Dealers & Installers:

Carmi

- Generator Johnny (618) 609-9001
- Larry’s Electric (618) 265-3706
- Marshall Electric (618) 382-3932
- Seiler Electric (618) 382-7083

Cisne

- R.S. Electric (618) 534-0536

Enfield

- Healy Electric (618) 936-2400

Fairfield

- All-Pro Electric (618) 842-4829
- Carter Turf & Tractor (618) 842-9166
- Troyer Electric (618) 847-4317

McLeansboro

- Wuebbles Repair (618) 648-2227

Noble

- Dan’s Electric (618) 723-2515

Orchardville

- Sharp Electric (618) 237-6832 

Director Petitions Available March 14

Three Director Seats up for Election at Annual Meeting in June

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE NUMBER 2:

Democratic Member Control. As a member-owned cooperative, we are owned and run by our members. Our members elect nine directors to serve on the board from each of our districts. Each Annual Meeting, three of those director seats are put up for election and voted on by the members.

Any member of the electric cooperative is eligible to pick-up a petition to run for a seat on the Board of Directors as long as they live in the district that is currently up for election.

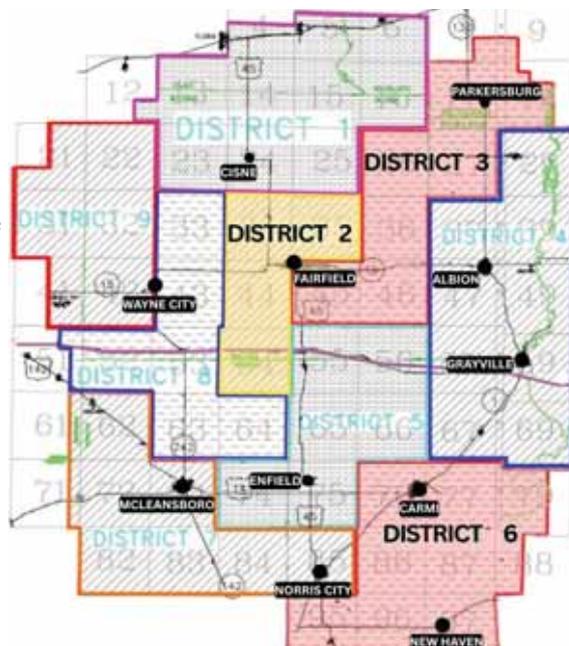
This year, the seats up for election are those currently held by Vernon Gwaltney of Fairfield (District #2), Andy Glover of

Mt. Erie (District #3), and David Hunsinger of Carmi (District #6).

Petitions can be picked up at the cooperative office beginning March 14, 2026, and must be returned with signatures of at least 25 active members by April 28, 2026.

The map at right shows the nine member districts, as well as highlights those that have seats up for election at this year’s annual member meeting.

For any questions, to find out what district you live in, or more information about running, please contact us at (618) 842-2196. 



Line Crew Heads South for Winter Storm Fern Aid

Wayne-White Electric Linemen Travelled South to Help Kentucky & Mississippi Co-ops in Need

WHILE MOST PEOPLE WERE staying in from the winter storm at the end of January, a crew of six Wayne-White Electric linemen headed out into the elements to help some of our extended cooperative family in need in Kentucky, followed by another group of four a week later heading to Mississippi. Following Cooperative Principle #6 - Cooperation Among Cooperatives, Clint Harl, Jason McKinney, Kell Ragan, Todd Robertson, Donnie Smothers, David Vaughan, Travis Schilling, Craig Rennie, Colton Johnson, and Jaxson Crnovich all stepped up to answer the neighboring cooperatives' call.

The first crew was sent to South Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation in Somerset, Kentucky. Unfortunately, South Kentucky RECC is no stranger to major storm damage. In May 2025, their main office headquarters building was destroyed by an EF4 tornado. Their communications systems were completely knocked out and power restoration efforts

were reverted back to the old school ways: go out and physically find the outages and restore them.

As (bad) luck would have it, the South Kentucky RECC area was then hit again in January 2026 with severe weather: this time in the form snow and a large amount of ice from Winter Storm Fern.

At the peak of the power outages, South Kentucky RECC had over 28,000 members without power. To put that into perspective, that is nearly over three times the total amount of members Wayne-White Electric currently has.

The Wayne-White Electric linemen were assigned to the area surrounding Lake Cumberland. For six days, crews narrowed that number down to the final handful of individual outages in the remote areas that required more time-consuming work to restore.

Our second crew travelled down to Delta Electric Power Association in Greenwood, Mississippi. Delta EPA had 21,000 outages



at the peak of their event. As of February 9, they estimated 926 poles damaged that needed replaced, 1,300 spans of wire to rehang, and 787 trees to be cut off the line.

We are thankful to report our crew returned safely back to work and are grateful for their willingness to serve not only our members, but the members of other cooperatives as well. 

