

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

April 2026

Lineworkers are Ready When it Matters Most

AS EMPLOYEES OF WAYNE-WHITE Electric Cooperative, we have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. Every year in April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men who make that possible every single day -- our linemen.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our linemen see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most -- leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they are not just restoring power to a system -- they are restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it is essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like Wayne-White


Electric Cooperative were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our linemen embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbor means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, Wayne-White Electric Cooperative crews stand ready to assist neighboring cooperatives -- sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines -- to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times.

Linework is demanding, physical, and dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On April 18, 2026 (national recognition), we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our Wayne-White Electric Cooperative linemen: thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.

Note: April 13, 2026, is also celebrated as Lineworker Appreciation Day at the state level. 

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- April 1 - Bills Generated
- **April 3 - Office Closed**
- April 5 - Easter
- **April 14 - Enfield Open**
- April 15 - Bills Due!
- April 18 - Lineman Day!
- April 22 - Earth Day
- **April 22 - Admin Prof. Day**
- **April 24 - Arbor Day**
- **April 28 - Board Meeting**
- **April 28 - Enfield Open**

CONTACT US

Wayne-White
Electric Cooperative

Phone: (618) 842-2196

Toll Free: (888) 871-7695

Fax: (618) 842-4497

Pay-by-Phone: (855) 937-1939

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 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

Download Our SmartHub App!

The SmartHub app is your one-stop-shop for your Wayne-White Electric account!

You can download the app or log in through our website. Through SmartHub, you can:

- Report outages
- View the outage map
- Review your electric usage
- Pay your bill with a card or check
- Set up automatic payments
- View your bill as soon as it is ready
- Set up paperless billing
- Set up text or email billing & payment notifications

Learn more, log in or download the SmartHub app at waynewhitecoop.com

Annual Meeting Guidelines for Members Attendance & Voting Rules for Members

WITH THE ANNUAL MEETING coming up on June 12, 2026, it is important to know the membership attendance and voting guidelines ahead of time. To help make things smooth at registration during the Annual Meeting, we have outlined the definition of a member, as well as some guidelines to voting at the Annual Meeting.

Any individual or legally existing entity that receives electric service from Wayne-White Electric Cooperative, pays all fees necessary, and abides by the Bylaws of the Cooperative is considered a member. Basically, if you receive your electric service from Wayne-White Electric, you are a member-owner of our Cooperative.


When it comes to the Annual Meeting, we invite all cooperative members who have active services as of May 2, 2026. The Annual Meeting Booklet/Magazine is sent out with information regarding the meeting, as well as a registration ticket on the front of the booklet that shows the names of the individual(s) or entity on the membership. If the person(s) listed on the membership are not in attendance, but another member of the household attends the Annual Meeting, they will not be able to vote or receive the bill credit given out to members. If you or your spouse need added to the membership for your household, contact our office to update a membership application or complete the fillable version on our website. **The member(s) listed on the membership must be**


in attendance in order to receive the bill credit or vote!

A joint membership can have two individuals residing in the same location on one membership, such as a husband and wife. The meeting presence of either or both of the individuals shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall constitute a joint waive of notice of the meeting.

Each member, receiving electric service on the record date, and present in person at a meeting of the members, shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at such meeting. Any matters of the Cooperative affecting the membership, as well as Directors for the Board, are voted on at each Annual Meeting.

Regarding entity voting, an individual must present evidence requested by and satisfactory to the Cooperative that such individual is authorized to vote for such member prior to the close of registration of the meeting. If your name is listed on an organization/entity membership, you would be authorized to vote for that membership. If it is not, a letter must be provided from an authoritative member of the organization granting a specific individual the authorization to vote.

For further questions or if you need to update your membership before the Annual Meeting on June 12, contact our office at (618) 842-2196. 



CAST YOUR VOTE AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 12, 2026

BOARD PETITIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE & MUST BE TURNED IN BY 4/28/26

TO VIEW WHAT DISTRICTS ARE UP FOR ELECTION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.WAYNEWHITECOOP.COM

The graphic features a hand putting a ballot into a green ballot box labeled 'VOTE'.

Electrical Safety for Petroleum Workers

Wayne-White Electric Presents Live Line Demonstration for IPRB

THE ILLINOIS PETROLEUM RESOURCES Board and the Indiana Oil and Gas Association hosted the Illinois Basin Safety Awareness Day on February 26 in Carmi, Illinois.

The event was open to all Illinois Basin oil and gas exploration and production industry professionals, and focused on oil-field safety awareness while also celebrating the traditional oilfield worker appreciation day.

CountryMark Safety Manager Ben

Vaupel gave a safety presentation to start the day, followed by some safety trivia with Campbell Energy's Alan Hatten.


While those in attendance enjoyed their lunch from The Smokin' Pig out of Grayville, linemen from Wayne-White Electric presented a live line demonstration to discuss electrical safety in the oil business.

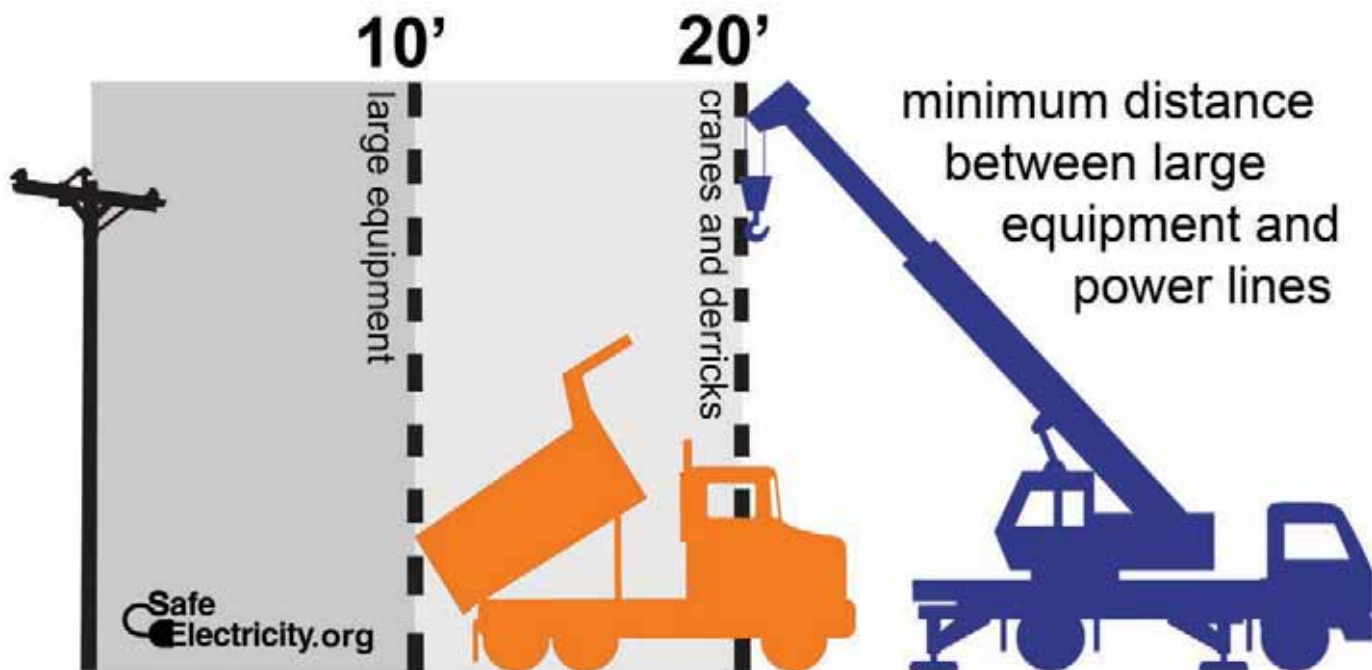
Current Wayne-White Electric lineman and former oilfield worker, Nathan Coston led the demonstration. His prior experience helped relate the dangers of working around electric lines and equipment in the oil field industry.

With many visual examples, as well as stories from the past, Nathan stressed the importance of always assuming a power line is hot - you cannot see, smell, or hear electricity, so you have no way



of knowing for sure whether the line is hot or not. Other topics included a downed line on the road or on your vehicle/equipment, trees in power lines, and many more.

Safety is of utmost importance to us for our employees, members, and communities. If your school or organization would like to schedule a Live Line demonstration, contact our office at (618) 842-2196. 



research collected from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration

Reap What You Sow

How Farmers Can Stay Safe During Planting Season

LONG HOURS AND FATIGUE are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of your self by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself brakes to clear your head.


Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity and electrical equipment.

If you are burning ditches or fields around power lines, please be aware of keeping those fires away from the utility poles. Burning utility poles can not only cause issues for you at your farm ground, but could cause outages that affect several members around the area.

SafeElectricity.org offers farmers the following reminders this spring planting season:

- If your machinery or vehicles comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a “pathway to ground” and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- If your machinery or vehicle catches fire, you must carefully hop out of the vehicle and land on both feet at the same time. It is very important to land with only your feet and both of them meeting the ground simultaneously. Once you do, hop with both feet together, both feet meeting the ground at the same time, until you are as far away from the machinery as possible. If a medical condition prohibits you from hopping, keep your feet together and shuffle them without bringing them off the ground, until you get as far away from the machinery as you can.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from a distance) to stay in the tractor or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene.
- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas and when using ladders, look up first to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Be sure to stay away from a sagging or downed power line.
- Even if there is no contact to an electric line, an electrical current can jump or arc so keep equipment at least ten feet away from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, non-metallic materials (such as tree limbs, ropes and hay) can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust or dirt accumulation.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least fifty feet away. Also, call 9-1-1 to have the operator dispatch the correct utility.
- Every day, map out where your equipment will be moving to ensure it will be able to clear all surrounding overhead power lines.
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- According to American Family Insurance, “know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

- If kids are helping around the farm, be sure to teach them how to do tasks safely and what to do in case of an emergency around electric lines.

For more information on electrical safety, visit their site at www.safeelectricity.org and visit us at www.waynewhitecoop.com 

SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air and that means more than just a change of season for farmers. During the busy planting season, follow these eight safety tips:



TRANSPORT SAFELY

Ensure equipment is compliant with agriculture road and travel safety rules



SHARE SAFETY TIPS

Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards



ENCOURAGE YOUNG WORKERS

Be sure to match age and ability level with each chore



BE CLEAR

Explain where the “back 80” or Smith field is; not everyone may know how to get there



WRITE IT DOWN

Keep directions (with proper road and farm ground names) at home, in the shop and in cabs



LOOK AROUND

Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting



EVALUATE PROCEDURES

Consider new safety precautions you can implement, such as lockout/tagout



MEET AND DISCUSS

Conduct morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day and talk about potential hazards

Sources: Rural Mutual Insurance Co., farmprogress.com

