



# NEWS

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING

# MEMBER



# POWERED

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026



524 North Madison P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
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.



## 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 25th, 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 or 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. This way your vote will count!

All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the annual meeting will be entered into a drawing for a bill credit.

## 2026 Nominating Committee results

The 2026 Nominating Committee met in the board room at the WIEC office in Carthage on March 9 to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative's annual meeting on Thursday, June 25. **8612-20**

Serving on the committee were Todd Beeler, Sutter; Spencer Berry as Chairperson, Nauvoo; Rodney Bruns, Carthage; Bradley Flatt as Secretary, Media; Harold "Tony" Herdrich, Dallas City; Brian Reavis, Carthage; and Max Roskamp, Sutter.

The following were nominated for director positions:

- District 6: Landon Guymon
- District 7: Janet Spory

The nominations have been posted in Carthage at the co-op office as stipulated in the cooperative's by-laws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Per the co-op's bylaws, nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are not allowed.

## Welcome new members

February  
2026

Casey Bruns  
Austin Cook  
Jennifer Lee Cooper

Lonnie E Frakes  
Tara M & Joshua C Musser

# Allocation of WIEC's 2025 operating margins

If you were a WIEC member who purchased power during 2025 you should have received an allocation notice last month, in April. If you did not receive one, please contact us. **6816-61-1**

This allocation of capital credits does not mean cash in hand for co-op members quite yet. That piece of the process comes several years later, after board approval, and is called the retirement portion of the process. The recent allocation notices communicate to members how much each has coming to them in the future as a result of 2025's operating margins.

One of the main differences between a cooperative and an investor-owned utility is that any operating margins (sometimes called "profits") accumulated during the year are eventually returned to members in the form of capital credits. Each year, WIEC sends these allocation notifications to members detailing their individual share of the previous year's margins. This year, members should have received their allocation notices via mail in April.

**AND THE WINNER IS...**

Map Location Winners – March issue  
**James & Pranom Sewell**  
*Congratulations!*

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

If you receive a call from someone stating you have overpaid your energy bill and you should provide your banking information or a credit card number to receive a refund, hang up because it's likely a scam. If you overpay your bill, your utility will apply the overpayment credit to your account balance or mail a check. They will not call and request your banking information to issue the refund.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*

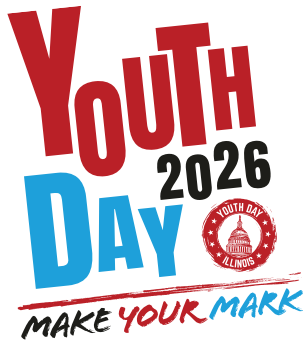


## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: *energy.gov*





## Co-op students engage lawmakers during annual Youth Day

**O**n March 25, 168 students sponsored by 24 electric and telephone cooperatives across the state gathered in the Illinois State Capitol for Youth Day, an annual event designed to introduce young leaders to state government and the cooperative principles that serve their communities. Students met with elected officials, explored historic sites and experienced the workings of state government firsthand.

Youth attendees from Western Illinois Electrical Coop. territory were Allyana Climer, Aaron Martens and Isaac Mohr. WIEC Billing Coordinator Karmen Metternich chaperoned.

“As cooperatives, we’re committed not only to providing reliable service but also to investing in the next generation,” said Brooke Gross, member services manager at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and facilitator of its youth programs. “Youth Day helps students understand the cooperative difference and the impact they can have as informed citizens.”

State Senator Neil Anderson met with the students representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop.

In addition to meeting elected officials, the students also learned more about their cooperative’s role in their own communities and had the opportunity to tour the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. **771-15**

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He shared his journey from a small town in Illinois to his current role, emphasizing the importance of finding interesting and challenging opportunities. He encouraged students to pursue their passions, participate and become lifelong learners.



“You have found time to participate here today by coming to Youth Day,” Frerichs said. “You’re talking to people. You are learning. And I’ll tell you that learning never stops. It only stops when you decide you don’t want to learn anymore. ... If you decide to push yourself and become a lifelong learner, you’ll grow from it.”

Participants also met Micah Anderson, the 2025-26 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Adams Telephone Co-Operative during the 2025 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. He spoke of his experiences over the past year, saying that representing Illinois has been one of the most fulfilling things he’s done in his life.

“Throughout the year, I’ve grown in many ways that I could have never imagined,” Anderson said. “I never thought that I would be able to see myself as a leader. I never thought that I would be confident enough to get in front of a crowd and deliver a speech. ... But here I am in front of all you today. I’m a testament to the growth that you can undergo if you take advantage of the opportunities that are placed in front of you. I challenge you all to do the same.” **9511-41**

At the end of the day, attendees were interviewed for the chance to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., also sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year’s trip will be held June 15-22. Isaac Mohr will represent Western Illinois Electrical Coop. on the weeklong trip to see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills.

“From touring Washington, D.C., to learning the cooperative difference, Youth Tour is much more than a trip,” said Gross. “It’s an experience they will carry long after high school.”

