

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

May 2026



Southern rock and country group Wilce n Green are set to provide the entertainment at this year's Annual Meeting. They will take the stage at Wayne City High School around 6pm on Friday, June 12, 2026. From left are: Jody Green, Rick Stoffel, Jeff Stoffel and Todd Williford.

## Wilce n Green Set to Play Annual Meeting

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BAND Wilce n Green is set to provide entertainment at our Annual Meeting on June 12, 2026.

Performing primarily multiple eras of country and southern rock, Wilce n Green have a following across much of Southern Illinois.

The original Wilce n Green band was formed approximately twelve years ago by two friends


player last year.

Current band members include Wayne-White Electric member and Hamilton County taxidermist Jody Green on rhythm guitar and vocals. Todd Williford of Thompsonville and owner of Moonlite Pine Event Barn in Williamson County, is on lead guitar and vocals. Jeff Stoffel plays drums and is a backup vocalist from Benton who has been a drummer in several country bands since 1994. His brother Rick Stoffel of Collinsville plays bass guitar.

You can find Wilce n Green the first Saturday of the month at the Wayne City Opry or every second Friday at The Corner Dance Hall in Whittington. They also play several other events in between and love to see their followers line dancing and

named Wilce and Green, that were playing at a local restaurant. Different band members have come and gone throughout the years, but the current group has been playing together for the past seven years with the exception of a new bass

two stepping to their music.

We hope our members can join us as Wilce n Green takes the stage at Wayne City High School around 6pm at our Annual Meeting on Friday, June 12, 2026. 

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- May is Electrical Safety Month
- May 1 - Bills Generated
- May 2 - Bills Out in Mail
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 14 - Enfield Open
- May 15 - Bills Due!
- May 25 - Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 26 - Board Meeting
- May 28 - Enfield Open

## CONTACT US

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### Mailing Address

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### Physical Address

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### 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 Glover .....District 3

### Treasurer

Richard Rubenacker .....District 7

### Directors

Larry Hosselton..... District 1

Vernon Gwaltney .....District 2

David Hunsinger .....District 6

Richard Talbert .....District 8

Noel Edmison.....District 9

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

## Annual Meeting Booklet Next Month

The 2026 Annual Meeting booklet will be included in the June 2026 Illinois Country Living Magazine. All members will receive a magazine by mail, with the registration info on the bottom portion of the front page.

Booklets are scheduled to go in the mail on May 26. If you do not receive yours before the Annual Meeting on June 12, we will have some extra copies in our office, or you will be able to fill out a registration sheet when you arrive at the meeting if you do not have one with you.



## May is National Electrical Safety Month

**ELECTRICITY LIGHTS HOMES AND** businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Wayne-White Electric Cooperative and SafeElectricity.org provide these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

**Staying Safe on the Road:** Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident/collision. As seen in this picture, our linemen Colton Johnson and Jason McKinney replaced a transformer pole that was brought down over the road during strong wind and storms earlier this spring.

If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is deenergized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out. The only time you should exit your vehicle is if it is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.

**Staying Safe Outside:** When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.

Make sure that all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.

Before digging, call 8-1-1 Julie locating service. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damages are the responsibility of the homeowner or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.

When you see lightning, take shelter inside the house, shop or a hard-topped



Photo by Wayne-White Electric member Sheila Walker


vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

**Staying Safe Inside:** With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

Have a qualified electrician/licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched, sparks when plugging in or unplugging items or circuits that trip often.

When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware the electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.

Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.

During storms, lightning can enter homes through tvs, computers, or plumbing. Do not bathe or wash dishes when you see lightning. If possible, unplug appliances before the storm to avoid surges that damage electronics and appliances. 

# Area Students Attend Youth Day in Springfield

ON MARCH 25, 2026, 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.

Students representing Wayne-White Electric Cooperative included Kami James

enough to take them to his office to chat.

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.

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 chal-

most fulfilling things he has 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."




Jalynn Phillips

In addition to Youth Day, Jalynn Phillips and Reece Whitley

were also selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives.

This year's trip will be held on June 15-22.

They will represent Wayne-White Electric Cooperative 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." 



Reece Whitley



Students with Senator Terri Bryant

and Reece Whitley of Carmi-White County High School, Mikkie Hearle and Ryan Strange of Cisne High School, Ava Isle of Fairfield Community High School, Macie McCarthy and Jalynn Phillips of Norris City-Omaha-Enfield High School, and Emma Griswold and Alayna White of Wayne City High School.

"As cooperatives, we are 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 Terri Bryant and Representatives Dave Severin and Patrick Windhorst met with the students representing Wayne-White Electric. The students ran into Representative Severin by happenstance when he stepped onto their elevator in the Stratton Office Building, and was gracious

enough to take them to his office to chat. He encouraged students to pursue their passions, participate and become lifelong learners.

"You have found the time to participate in 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 Cooperative 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



Students with Representative Dave Severin

# Spring Into Energy Savings

**SPRING IS A SEASON** of renewal -- and a great time to refresh your energy habits too! As temperatures begin to warm and daily routines shift, a few small changes around your home can add up to meaningful energy savings.

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative is committed to helping our members use energy wisely while keeping homes comfortable year-round.

Spring is the perfect time to schedule maintenance for your heating and cooling system. Spring and fall checkups conducted by a licensed professional can help ensure your system is running efficiently, safely and reliably before the peak seasons begin. A well-maintained unit uses less energy, lasts longer and helps prevent costly breakdowns when you need it most. And do not forget - we offer rebates of up to \$50 for HVAC tune-ups. You can learn more on our website at [waynewhitecoop.com](http://waynewhitecoop.com)

If you are looking for a simple place to


start saving, look no further than ceiling fans. Fans do not actually cool or heat the air, but they help you feel more comfortable by moving it. During warmer months, make sure your ceiling fan blades are set to rotate counterclockwise. This creates a downward breeze that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat a few degrees without sacrificing comfort. In cooler months, reverse the direction of fan blades clockwise to help push warm air down from the ceiling, improving efficiency when your heating system is running.

Speaking of thermostats, adjusting the temperature just a few degrees can make a noticeable difference on your energy bill. With spring in full swing, try setting your thermostat slightly higher when cooling or slightly lower when heating. Even a two- or three-degree adjustment can reduce energy use while still keeping your home comfortable -- especially when combined with ceiling fans or open windows on mild, pleasant

days.

Hot water use is another area where simple habits matter. Taking shorter showers can help reduce the amount of energy used to heat water, which makes up a significant portion of most energy bills. Cutting just a few minutes off each shower not only saves energy but also conserves water.

Finally, the time of day you use energy can also play a part in long-term savings. When you run major appliances during off-peak hours (when energy demand is lower), you can help reduce pressure on the electric grid, slowing the wear-and-tear of the system.

Wayne-White Electric is here to help every season, every step of the way. We offer energy-saving resources and rebates designed to help you lower energy use for your home or business and manage costs. If you have questions or want to learn more about energy efficiency offerings and programs, visit [www.waynewhitecoop.com](http://www.waynewhitecoop.com) 



## SPRING INTO ENERGY SAVINGS.

- Schedule a tune-up for your heating/cooling system.
- Set fan blades to run counterclockwise for cooling.
- Adjust your thermostat a few degrees.
- Take short showers to save on water heating.
- Run major appliances during off-peak hours.