

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

July 2026

2026 President/CEO Annual Meeting Report

IT WAS A WARM, sunny evening for our 89th Annual Meeting, and we appreciate everyone that came in to cool off at our meeting. We had 520 members registered for our 89th Annual Member Meeting on Friday, June 12 at Wayne City Schools. If you were unable to attend the meeting, here is a recap of what was presented to the members in attendance.

One of the things that makes electric cooperatives special is that gatherings like our Annual Meeting are not just business meetings -- they are meetings of neighbors, friends, and members who all have a shared stake in the future of our communities.

That cooperative difference matters.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives were built by the people they serve. In rural America, and especially here in southern Illinois, co-ops were formed because private companies did not see enough profit in bringing electricity to farms and small towns. But local people saw something more important: opportunity, quality of life, and a better future for their families.

Every day, your cooperative works to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity to homes, farms, schools, churches, and businesses across our region. Whether it is during the hottest days of summer, the coldest nights of winter, or the severe storms we all know too well, our mission remains the same: keeping the lights on and serving our members.

Because we are member-owned, one of the greatest advantages we can provide is returning value directly to the people we serve. Unlike investor-owned utilities that distribute profits to shareholders, we return our margins back to our members through capital credits. We returned over \$2 million in capital credits in 2025 and we will be doing the same thing this year. Active members should look for that bill credit on their August bill. Returning capital credits is a

reflection of the cooperative business model and a reminder that this organization belongs to you.

At the same time, we remain focused on controlling costs and keeping electric rates

as stable and affordable as possible. One tool that helps us manage fluctuations in wholesale power costs is the power cost adjustment, or PCA. The PCA allows the co-op to respond to changing fuel and power supply costs without making large, permanent changes to base electric rates. When wholesale power costs increase, the PCA helps recover those expenses responsibly, and when costs decrease, members benefit from those reductions as well. Other than the small changes in the PCA, ***we do not anticipate needing a rate increase over the next year.***

Over the past year, we have continued upgrading poles, replacing aging power lines, improving substations, and expanding the use of automation and monitoring technology that helps crews identify and respond to outages more quickly. Reliable electric service starts with a well-maintained system. That is why we continue to make vegetation management and maintenance a priority, helping reduce outage risks and improve service reliability for our members.

Another important step in reliability that we are exploring is the use of battery storage technology to help manage wholesale power costs during periods of peak demand. The price of electricity can rise dramatically during extreme heat or cold when energy use is at its highest,



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- July 1 - Bills Generated
- July 2 - Bills Out in Mail
- July 3 - Office Closed
- July 4 - Independence Day!
- July 14 - Enfield Open
- July 15 - Bills Due!
- July 28 - Board Meeting
- July 30 - Enfield Open

CONTACT US

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative

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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

Richard Talbert.....District 8

Treasurer

Richard RubenackerDistrict 7

Directors

Larry Hosselton District 1

Blaine Norton.....District 2

Ryan DuckworthDistrict 3

David HunsingerDistrict 6

Noel Edmison.....District 9

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

CEO Report Continued...

causing us to pay peak demand charges. Battery systems allow us to store energy when costs are lower and use that stored power during those peak pricing periods. We are in the process of installing our first battery storage project at the Wayne City substation. In the long run, this technology has the potential to improve reliability, reduce strain on the electric grid, and help control costs for our members.

Across the country, electric cooperatives and utilities are paying close attention to the rapid growth of large data centers and other high-energy-use facilities. While economic development and new investment can bring enormous demands on the electric grid -- sometimes using as much electricity as a small city. That kind of rapid growth raises important questions about generation capacity, transmission infrastructure, long-term reliability, and the impact on costs for existing members. As your cooperative evaluates future opportunities, we believe it is critical that any major new load benefits our local communities without unfairly shifting costs or reliability risks onto the families, farms, and small businesses we already serve. We will ensure that any new large load will pay their own way. Our responsibility is to ensure growth is managed carefully, thoughtfully, and in a way that protects the interests of our membership.

Another issue that continues to shape the future of electric cooperatives is energy legislation and regulation at both the state and federal level. In Illinois, policies related to renewable energy, carbon reduction goals, transmission development, and environmental compliance are changing the energy landscape in significant ways. While many of these efforts are intended to support cleaner energy and long-term sustainability, they can also create real challenges for rural electric systems like ours. Cooperatives must balance reliability, affordability, and regulatory compliance at the same time -- all while serving large geographic areas with relatively low population density.

One concern we continue to monitor

is the potential cost impact of mandates that may move faster than the infrastructure and generation resources needed to support them. Reliable baseload power remains critically important, especially during extreme weather events when demand is high and renewable generation may fluctuate. Electric cooperatives support a practical, balanced approach to energy policy that protects reliability and keeps electricity affordable for rural families, farms, schools, and businesses.

Electric cooperatives have always believed that service goes beyond electricity - concern for community is another of our driving principles. Whether through scholarships for local students, youth programs that give students the opportunity to learn how government impacts their communities, employee volunteer efforts that support local projects and events, economic development initiatives, or charitable giving through the WORKS program, we believe that investing in our communities today, helps create a strong future for everyone.

As we look ahead, the energy landscape will continue to evolve. New technologies, renewable energy development, battery storage, electric vehicles, and increased energy demands are changing the way electricity is generated and delivered.

But no matter how much technology changes, our core values will not.


We will continue focusing on reliability.

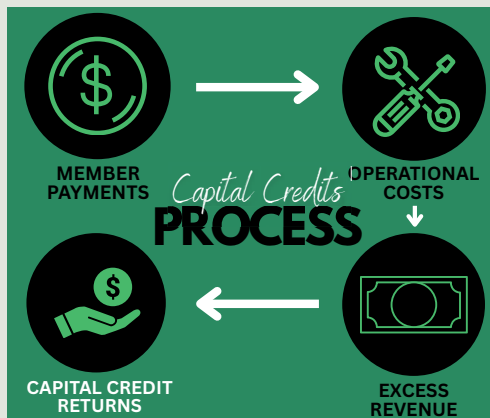
We will continue focusing on affordability.

And we will continue putting our members first.

That is the cooperative promise.

As your CEO, I want to encourage you to stay engaged with your cooperative. Attend meetings. Ask questions. Vote in board elections. Share your concerns and ideas. Because this cooperative belongs to you.

It is an honor to serve the members of Wayne-White Electric, and together, I believe we can continue building a strong, reliable, and prosperous future for generations to come. 



*The wait's almost over.
The credits are coming!*

Active members who had electric service in 2007, will receive their Capital Credits back as a bill credit on the bill received in August.



(618) 842-2196
View the unclaimed capital credits list at:
waynewhitecoop.com

2026 Board of Directors Election Results

TWO NEW DIRECTORS WERE voted onto the Wayne-White Electric Board of Directors at the 2026 Annual Meeting on June 12, 2026. We welcome to the Board Blaine Norton in District #2 and Ryan Duckworth in District #3. David Hunsinger ran unopposed and will continue as director in District #6.

Before the election of directors, long-time director in District #3, Andy Glover, was recognized for his 21 years of service on the Board of Directors as his term came to an end.

About Your New Directors:



Blaine Norton

Blaine and his wife Cheri live in rural Fairfield and have been members of Wayne-White Electric since 2003. They have three adult children: Zachary, Caleb and Katelyn.

Blaine works in nuclear medicine and holds several degrees, including: Associate of Applied Science in Radiological Sciences from Olney Central College; Certificate in Nuclear Medicine Technology from Baptist College of Health Sciences; Bachelor of

Science in Health Management from the University of St. Francis; Master Degree of Imaging Science, Nuclear Medicine Advanced Association from the University of Arkansas School for Medical Sciences.

Locally, Blaine was a former board member of the Solid Rock Teen Center and Senior Commander of Royal Rangers Outpost #197. He has also been a board member at New Beginning's Church in Fairfield, which his family attends; President of Jasper School Board, various positions on the Board of Governors of Wabash and Ohio Valley Special Education District, Chief Medical Officer/Deputy Director for the Wayne County Emergency Management Agency; coached for Upward Basketball, Fairfield Summer League Baseball and Softball; Vice President of the Fairfield High School Mulebackers Association; and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is currently a member of the Patriot Guard, Modern Woodman Fraternity and the Wayne County Historical Society.

Ryan lives in rural Fairfield and has been a member of Wayne-White Electric since 1997. He has three children, Luke, Lydia and

Wade Duckworth, and is engaged to long-time hair stylist J'ne McGehee of Fairfield.

Born and raised in northwestern White County, Ryan moved south of Fairfield into Wayne County in 2012. He is a local farmer and part-owner of Duckworth and Smith Farms, Inc., growing corn and beans.

Ryan obtained his Associate of Applied Science Degree at Wabash Valley College, followed by a Bachelor Degree in Agri-Business Economics from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale.

He is a current member of Central Christian Church in Mt. Vernon. Ryan previously served as the secretary for the Fairfield Rural Fire Department Board, as well as being a former member of the New Hope Grade School Board.

When not at work, you can find Ryan at his youngest son Wade's sporting events, including wrestling, football, baseball and track and field. He also enjoys camping and boating with family at Lake Barkley. 🍀



Ryan Duckworth

Capital Credits on August 2026 Bill

YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD about capital credits, or noticed the credit on your bill last August. But have you ever wondered just what does this credit from your electric cooperative really mean?

Under the unique cooperative business model, earnings are calculated at the end of the year. Anything left over after operating costs and other expenses is called a margin. Over a period of time, these margins are retired, or paid back, to every consumer of the electric cooperative. This is known as a patronage capital credit.

Because you are a member of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, you own a share of your cooperative's assets. That means you own a piece of the business. Upon approval from the directors, Wayne-White Electric returns retired margins in the

form of capital credits on your bill. In recent years, this has occurred annually.

That means that every member receives a capital credit based upon when you began receiving electric service with the cooperative. Our commitment to returning profits back to our member-owners is a key element of the cooperative difference, and this unique business model.

The amount allocated back to members is based on the amount of electricity that each member paid during the year(s) that are being paid out. Most cooperatives, including Wayne-White Electric, hold onto allocated capital credits for awhile to invest in the cooperative's electric system and to cover emergencies, such as natural disasters and other unexpected events, all of which may require new construction of power lines

including poles and wires. This action helps Wayne-White Electric provide reliable service at a stable, affordable cost.

This year, Wayne-White Electric's board of directors has approved returning over \$2 million in capital credits to our members. These capital credits will be paid out based upon members who received electricity from the cooperative during a portion of 2007. If you came on to Wayne-White Electric lines after 2007, you will not receive a capital credit on your bill until we begin paying back the margins for the year in which your service began.

The amount allocated for capital credits for 2025 can be found on the top of your June and July bills. This is not an amount you will receive this year, but once we begin paying out for the year 2025. 🍀

Enroll in Connect to Save and receive \$75 per device!*



When temperatures soar or plummet, home heating and cooling use also increases. This creates an “energy rush hour” when demand for power spikes.

Connect to Save rewards you for allowing an automatic adjustment to your smart thermostat’s energy use during certain peak periods throughout the year.

But don’t worry! You can always adjust the temperature yourself.

Visit our website at:
waynewhitecoop.com
to learn more and sign up!



Eligible devices:

Renew Home
formerly Google Nest

sen|si

ecobee

Honeywell



*Terms and conditions apply.