

Member powered WIEC holds 86th annual meeting

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) welcomed members to its 86th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 25, at the University of Illinois Extension Center in Carthage.

Board President Mark Burling called the meeting to order and thanked co-op members, employees, volunteers and community partners for making the annual event possible.

During the business meeting, members approved the previous year's meeting minutes and heard reports on the cooperative's financial performance. Board Treasurer Janet Spory reported operating margins of approximately \$258,000 for 2025. She also announced the retirement of nearly \$325,000 in capital credits to members who received service during 1997 and 1998. Capital credit checks will be mailed later this fall.

The meeting also highlighted several youth programs sponsored through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Isaac Mohr of Dallas City shared his experiences representing the cooperative during the 2026 Youth to Washington Tour, where he visited national landmarks, met with

elected officials and learned about electric cooperatives and the nation's government. **5614-24-1**

The cooperative also recognized local student Corin Robinson as a recipient of the 2026 Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship. The statewide scholarship program had nearly 270 applicants and awarded 17 \$3,000 scholarships this year.

Employees celebrating service milestones were recognized for their dedication to the cooperative, including Mitch Reed, mechanic/groundworker, for five years of service, and Eric Johnson, line foreman, for 40 years of service.

A featured panel discussion focused on the future of the electric industry and included WIEC Manager Todd Grotts and Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) President/CEO Eric Hobbie. The discussion covered electric reliability, rising energy demand, resource adequacy, transmission investments, legislative issues and the challenges of maintaining affordable and reliable electricity as the nation's energy mix continues to evolve.

Grotts noted that PPI's diverse generation portfolio and long-term

planning help provide stability for cooperative members despite increasing pressures on the electric grid, adding that WIEC's job is to keep electricity safe, reliable and affordable for its members.

During the meeting, members also reelected directors Landon Guymon, District 6, and Janet Spory, District 7, to new three-year terms on the cooperative's board of directors.

Winners were drawn for donated items and door prizes throughout the meeting. At the end, six grand prize winners were selected, and all will receive 1,000 kWh of free electricity. Congratulations to each of the winners!

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 700 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. The co-op is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 3,600 meters over 1,222 miles of line in Adams, Hancock, Henderson and McDonough counties. For more information visit www.wiec.net.





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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.

2026 annual meeting prizes

GIFT	DONOR	RECIPIENT
Spice Kit	Brownstown Electric Supply Co.	Janet Gittings
Spice Kit	Brownstown Electric Supply Co.	Gerald L Walker
\$100 Amazon gift card	Cooperative Response Center, Inc.	Betty E Gray
Visa gift card	Marine Bank and Trust	Steven G Renard
\$25 gift card to Law's Service Station	Roger Law/Law's Service Station	Webster Church
\$25 gift card to Law's Service Station	Roger Law/Law's Service Station	Raymond E Siegrist
\$25 gift card to Law's Service Station	Roger Law/Law's Service Station	Dan S Hanson
\$25 gift card to Law's Service Station	Roger Law/Law's Service Station	Jeremy Ussery
RTIC 30-can soft cooler	Tallman Equipment Co.	Arthur Hartweg
\$50 cash	T&R Service Co.	Cecil Shipman Jr
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Zack & Ashley Burling
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Teena L Fecht
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Donald David
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Larry R Buckert
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Hearts of Hancock Humane
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	William Joe Seaver
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Diana Shults
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Larry & Lana Finch
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Robert W Knowles
\$50 gift card to Farmhouse Meats	WIEC	Jared & Tori Buckert
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Brad Scanlan
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Lewis I Mohr
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Spencer C Berry
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Rose Mary Fay
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Donna Cramer
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Wayne P Humphrey
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Dale Bell
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Rodney F McGaughey
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	James N Little
\$50 gift card to County Market	WIEC	Donnie L Rosenboom
Grand Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	James Sewell
Grand Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Virgil S High
Grand Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Sandra S Lovell
Grand Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Daniel L Horton
Grand Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Victor R Davis
VCP Registration Prize - 1000 kWh of electricity	WIEC	Robert Lionberger



Making their mark

Local student represents Western Illinois Electrical Coop. in D.C.

Students representing electric and telephone co-ops across the state recently returned home following Youth Tour, a tradition spanning decades that sends students to Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable weeklong trip.

This year, 49 students sponsored by 25 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives took part in the 2026 Youth Tour, held June 15-22, to visit the nation's capital for an immersive experience designed to educate and inspire the next generation of cooperative and civic leaders.

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. sponsored one student from within its service territory this year. That student, Isaac Mohr from Dallas City, joined more than 2,000 students representing 44 states for the annual event.

"Electric and telephone cooperatives across the state are investing in the next generation through Youth Tour," said Brooke Gross, member services manager and facilitator of youth programs at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "It gives students a chance to see our nation's history and government up close. Just as importantly, it helps them discover their own potential as leaders."

Central to the Youth Tour experience is the formation of a mock

student-run cooperative called Chip 'n' Pop Co-op. Students began their journey at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives headquartered in Springfield, where they selected the co-op's board of directors. The board later interviewed and selected a co-op manager. **6615-1**

Throughout the week, the co-op handled snack sales, decision-making and budgeting — giving participants a hands-on look at how cooperatives operate. All students were members of the co-op.

Co-op leadership included Manager Josephine Meyer, Tri-County Electric Cooperative; Board Chair Elizabeth Hampton, Shelby Electric Cooperative; Vice Chair Brenna Hays, Wabash Communications CO-OP; Secretary-Treasurer Isabella Smith, Menard Electric Cooperative, and board members Iris Mount, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, and Reece Whitley, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative.

"Being part of this co-op helps students understand what makes a cooperative different," said Gross. "It's all about working together and making

decisions that serve everyone — not just one person or company."

Over the course of the week, students visited historic landmarks, including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol, where they had the opportunity to meet U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. They also strolled the



National Mall and explored the Smithsonian museums.

Midweek, students took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day, where they joined hundreds of other teens from

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across the country to hear from national leaders and learn how to use their voices back home.

In addition, a student was selected to represent Illinois on the national Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Those interested in becoming Illinois' YLC representative filled out an application, and five were selected to be interviewed for the position.

Corn Belt Energy Corporation's Colton Leonard was selected as the

2026-2027 YLC representative for Illinois. He will represent the state at national and state meetings and events in the year ahead.

"It's so awesome that the co-ops are able to do this for us all," Leonard said. "Everyone comes from so many different perspectives, and getting to meet other individuals is just so empowering."

The week concluded with a farewell dinner and dance, and by the time students returned home on June 22, many said they felt changed by the experience. **673-18**

"These students arrive in Washington, D.C., not knowing what to expect," Gross said. "By the end of the trip, they've built friendships, expanded their perspectives and gained a better understanding of how they can make a difference in their communities." **6514-49**

High school students who live within the service area of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthTour.



Welcome new members

May 2026

Susan J Beeler
Malachi D Campbell
Wesley D Harrison

Matt Hoenes
Kayla Levi-Smith
Justin Allen McKeown

Taylor Plowman
Brittany N Ufkes &
Dustin M Plant

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.

