

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

A monthly newsletter connecting our members with their cooperative.

August 2026

Long-Time Director's Board Term Ends



AFTER SEVEN CONSECUTIVE TERMS on the Wayne-White Electric Board of Directors, Andy Glover of District #3 has officially reached the end of his term in office. Per

Cooperative By-Laws, directors may serve up to seven consecutive three-year terms, and Glover did just that.

Since 2005, Glover has been dedicated to serving the Wayne-White Electric Board of Directors and members. In order to best serve the membership, Glover completed several courses and obtained his Certified Cooperative Director credential, as well as the Board Leadership Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Cooperative has seen many changes in the last 21 years since Glover joined the Board

of Directors, including two new CEOs in Daryl Donjon (at right, being introduced) in 2005 and current President/CEO Chris Hopfinger.

Other major changes Glover was pivotal with helping improve Wayne-White Electric during his tenure includes the cooperative beginning an agreement with Hoosier Energy to purchase power. That move has been a huge benefit to our members with increased reliability and stability in electric rates over the last 16 years.

Another major improvement project during Glover's time on the board was the needed office remodel and update back in 2017. This has improved employee efficiency and has helped our employees better serve the many members that visit our office.

We thank Andy for his many years of service



and dedication to Wayne-White Electric and wish him well in his future endeavors. 

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Aug 3 - Bills Generated
- Aug 4 - Bills Out in Mail
- Aug 11 - 811 Julie Dig Day
- **Aug 13 - Enfield Open**
- Aug 17 - Bills Due!
- Aug 25 - Board Meeting
- **Aug 27 - Enfield Open**
- Aug 31 - NEW OFFICE HOURS!

CONTACT US

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Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.





**BEGINNING MONDAY,
AUGUST 31, 2026**

**NEW OFFICE HOURS WILL BE:
MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

THIS UPDATE IS BEING MADE TO HELP
US BETTER SERVE OUR MEMBERS
BASED ON MEMBER INTERACTION
RESEARCH.

WE WILL STILL BE OPEN THE SAME
NUMBER OF HOURS PER DAY,
INCLUDING THROUGH LUNCH HOURS.



NEW OFFICE HOURS

WAYNEWHITECOOP.COM

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



Kids' Safety Videos

If you are on social media, check out our new electrical safety videos on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Cooperative employee kids Cooper and Kate, along with a few friends, share electrical safety tips for kids while playing outside in this fun, informational video series.

Be sure to share these videos with all the kiddos you know so we can help keep our youngest members safe when around electricity!

Dorm Room Electrical Safety

IT IS THE TIME of year when college campuses are preparing for students moving all of their worldly possessions into their home away from home - the dorm! While this is an exciting time for the students, it can be a nerve-racking time for parents. Safe Electricity reminds parents and students to keep electrical safety in mind.

- Do not overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips.
- Use power strips with over current protectors. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some common approved safety labels include UL, CSA, and MET.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff, or landlord.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Always use microwave-safe containers. Glass, ceramic containers, and plastics labeled “microwave

safe” should always be used. Metal and aluminum foil can damage the microwave or start a fire. If the microwave is damaged in any way, do not use it.

- Never disable a smoke detector; and never ignore a fire alarm or assume it is a drill. Every time a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.

When planning to move into a shared space like a dorm or university housing, Bob Wilczynski, assistant director of housing at the University of Illinois has a few insights. “Communicate with your roommates before shopping for items for the room. Often times when there is no communication, rooms end up with multiple refrigerators and microwaves, which can lead to a circuit overload in a small space.”

Wilczynski adds that you should check with your university’s housing department on their specific housing laws. Many colleges across the United States ban cooking appliances from on-campus housing, including hot plates, coffee makers, and microwaves. Many of these institutions provide a designated area for the use of these products.

For more information on dorm safety, visit safeelectricity.org. 

DORM ROOM SAFETY TIP:

Prevent electrical fire hazards. Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips or outlets.





Making Their Mark in Washington, D.C.

STUDENTS REPRESENTING ELECTRIC AND telephone cooperatives 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.

Wayne-White Electric Cooperative sponsored two students within its service territory. These students included Jalynn Phillips of Norris City-Omaha-Enfield High School and Reece Whitley of Carmi-White County High School. They 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 (AIEC). "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 AIEC headquarters in Springfield, where they selected the co-op's board of directors. The board later interviewed and selected a co-op manager.

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 from Wayne-White Electric.

"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 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'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.

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

"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," Gross said.

High school students who live within the service area of Wayne-White Electric Cooperative are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop or [facebook.com/ILYouthTour](https://www.facebook.com/ILYouthTour) .



August 11 is 811 Julie Dig Awareness Day

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY, 811 Day, is upon us this August 11. Easy to remember because of its 8/11 date, the day is a good reminder to get underground utilities marked prior to breaking ground. Having utilities marked is free and easy to do; simply call 811 two to three business days prior to starting your project. While state laws vary, utility companies generally have two to three days to respond to your request. Let's learn why this is important and how it works.

Excavation Safety: For professional excavators such as construction workers and contractors, ensuring safety is crucial. Beneath every site lies a network of utility lines -- electric, water, gas and telecommunications. Striking these lines can cause:

- Costly delays & expensive repairs
- Service disruptions to the community
- And most importantly, serious injury or death

Contacting 811: Contacting 811 before digging helps prevent these risks. When you contact 811, they will notify

relevant utility companies to mark underground lines, free of charge, using colored flags or paint. This process usually only takes a few days. Different colors are used to mark underground utilities, and each color is universal:

- Red = Electric
- Orange = Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue = Potable Water
- Green = Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow = Gas/Petroleum
- Purple = Reclaimed Water
- White = Premark site for proposed excavation

Best Practices for Digging: After receiving utility markings, follow these practices:

- Respect the marks. Dig carefully around them.
- Maintain markings. Refresh if they fade or are removed.
- Verify responses. Ensure all utilities have reported.
- Hand dig in tolerance zones. Use hand tools within 18-24 inches of marked utilities.

Remember, 811 does not locate private utilities. Hire a private locator for systems including underground sprinklers, invisible fences, data communication systems or gas piping to a garage.

Training and Communication: Train your team on excavation procedures and the importance of contacting 811. Regular toolbox talks can reinforce safe practices and potentially save lives. Failing to contact 811 is unsafe and often illegal. Many states have laws requiring excavators to use the 811 system and to pre-mark proposed sites, with potential fines for non-compliance.

Your Responsibility: Always contact 811 before any excavation, no matter what the project size. Once utilities are located, wear proper protective gear before digging.

Whether you are digging a foundation for a skyscraper or installing a fence post, check before you dig. It is free, easy and helps keep your crew and the community out of harm's way. Prioritizing 811 reflects your commitment to safety and professionalism. Stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe! 



Plan ahead.
you never know what lies below...

Make safety a priority when digging. Before starting any digging project, call 811. It is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them.

Just call 811, or submit an online request at Call811.com at least three business days before you plan to dig.

Learn more at:

 Safe
Electricity.org®