



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NEWS

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800/576-3125

WIEC sponsors Youth to Washington Contest

**One student will win
a free trip to D.C.**

Western Illinois Electrical Coop. (WIEC) is proud to sponsor the Youth to Washington Contest and will award one son or daughter of a WIEC member an all-expense paid 8-day trip to our nation's capital. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible for this once in a lifetime, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. To enter the contest, students must complete a Web quiz that consists of multiple-choice, short answer and short essay questions.

The WIEC winner will join about 70 other Illinois high school students in Washington June 14-21, 2019. While in D.C., students will learn about American and rural electric history, as well as state and federal government. In past years, students met with representatives in the House and Senate, visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian (6612-66) Air and Space Museum, many memorials and monuments, the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum, and even enjoyed the Marine Corps Sunset Parade.

As part of the contest, WIEC will award the top six entrants an all-expense paid trip to Springfield, Ill. as part of Youth Day on April 3, 2019 when students from across the state will visit the Illinois State Capitol to



"It was an amazing trip seeing all of the monuments and memorials and everything else that is in Washington, D.C. The trip to Washington is an experience I'll never forget."
Colten Shipman, 2018 Y2W winner



"I could say thank you a thousand times and I still could not explain how grateful I am for this opportunity. This has truly been an adventure of a lifetime."
John Steck, 2018 Y2W winner

see state government in action. One of those six students will be awarded the trip to Washington, D.C.

For more information about Youth Day or Youth Tour, visit aiec.coop/youth-programs/. To enter the contest, visit our website at

wiec.net/2019-youth-to-washington-contest/, contact Mandy Steinkamp at Mandy@wiec.net or see your high school guidance counselor. Applications and quiz answers are due at the WIEC office by Feb. 15, 2019.



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A Teachstone Energy Cooperative

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

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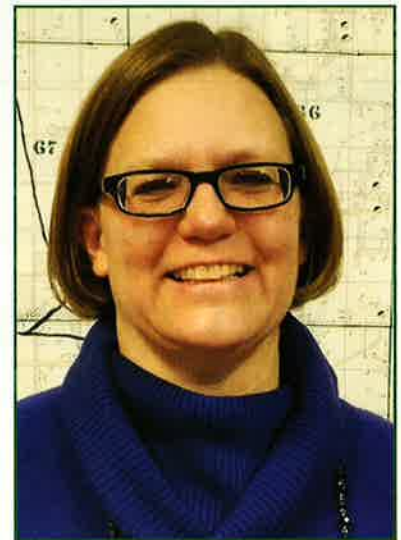
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager
of Operations
- **Becky Dickinson** — Finance/
Accounting Manager

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.

WIEC hires new employee

*Wendi Whitaker joins team
as finance/accounting
manager*



On Dec. 3, the WIEC family welcomed Wendi Whitaker as the new finance/accounting manager. With the retirement of long-time employee Becky Dickinson in the middle of 2019, Wendi will take over her duties. Wendi is a Carthage native with a son, Jude Hopkins, who is a student attending Carthage Middle School. She is both a Carthage High School and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign graduate.

Wendi enjoys attending her son's sporting events during the school year. When the weather's a bit nicer, she enjoys hiking, gardening and weekend trips... which often include a major league baseball game or two.

Wendi says, "After several years in Colorado, I've been back in this area now for about eight years. I'm very much looking forward to connecting with our members and doing the best possible job I can to serve them and meet their needs." We invite the member-owners to stop by and say hello!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: *energy.gov*





Weather terms to remember

Before a storm ever begins, tune into your local weather service for the weather forecast. It is important to know the differences among various watches and warnings.

• **Winter Storm Watches** signify that stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, are likely within the next few days. You should be alert, as this means adverse conditions could begin within the next 12 to 48 hours. (5510-18-1)

• **Winter Storm Warnings** call for stormy conditions to begin within the next 24 hours. Those in the range of the warning should be mindful of the impending conditions and consider canceling plans to travel outside of the home.

• **Blizzard Warnings** advise those in the affected areas to seek refuge immediately due to high (6619-16) levels of snow, strong winds and resulting near-zero visibility to those traveling on the road.

What to do if you have an outage



Display? Check breakers and fuses



No display? Call WIEC!

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.



Welcome New Members

OCTOBER 2018

Rachel Burgdorf, La Harpe

Jessica Clark, La Harpe

Ford Sisters LLC, Stronghurst

Frontier Communications,
Spokane, WA

Sara & Matthew Harrison,
Manhattan, KS

Kerry K. & Colleen Heisel,
Stockport, IA

Cristy Leasman, Sutter

Loren Lord, La Harpe

McMueller LLC, Ottawa

Ashley Monroe, Zane Torrance,
Carman

William M. Smith, Gladstone

Cash that check. You deserve it!

WIEC members who were on our lines in 1983 recently received their capital credit checks for their share of the margins they earned for that year. The checks were mailed in November.

You can think of your check as a

little New Year's present to yourself from the past. Or you can think of it as a painless way to (6726-2) donate to your favorite charity. Whatever you do with that money, it won't do any good sitting in that envelope. So, cash that check – you deserve it!

Downed and Dangerous

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous! If you see one:

- » Notify local authorities.
- » Stay at least 35 ft. away.
- » Never drive over a downed line, or through water touching one.
- » Never try to move a downed line.

