



David Peer joins WIEC

On March 18, David Peer began working at WIEC in the operations department as an electrical staking technician. He will be working with our GIS mapping system, meeting members to stake new services, as well as handling material in our warehouse. Ryan Biery, manager of operations, says, "David's experience and his working knowledge of software and technologies that are being used at WIEC will be a great asset."

A graduate in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, David has had previous job experience in the utility industry with both

investor-owned and electric cooperatives. Having grown up in Hannibal, Mo., David and his wife Kim are happy to be closer to their family and friends. His son, Devin, and daughter-in-law, Jessica, live in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. They are anxiously waiting for the birth of their first grandchild later this fall, so they are very glad to be back in the area.

In his free time, David likes to figure out how things work (7513-31) and fix them when they need repair. He also likes to hunt, play disc golf and do woodworking. Welcome to the WIEC family, David.



The WIEC office will be closed May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Two employees honored

Recently, two WIEC employees were recognized for their years of service to WIEC and its member-owners. Fourth-year Apprentice Eric Belshaw (below left) was recognized for five years and Journeyman Lineman Tim Shumate (below right) was honored for 10 years of service. These two are part of the line crew who build, patrol and maintain our electric system. Congratulations gentlemen!





Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

- **Kent Flesner** — President, West Point
- **Mark Burling** — Vice President, Carthage
- **Janet Spory** — Secretary/Treasurer, Sutter
- **William Newton** — Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Burnside
- **Rob Gronewold** — Director, Carthage
- **Kim Gullberg** — Director, Stronghurst
- **Jay Morrison** — Director, Niota

STAFF

- **Todd Grotts** — General 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.

5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS



1. Power Lines – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.

2. Outdoor outlets – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.



3. Pools – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.



4. Extension Cords – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.



5. Electric Garden Tools – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.



Learn more at [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

Welcome New Members

FEBRUARY 2019

- Jacob Burtalo, Niota, IL
- Kurtis McInroy & Vickie Schafer, Warsaw, IL
- Brian Hilliard, Plymouth, IL
- Jordan Squire, Layton, UT



Illinois electric cooperative directors, managers and staff come together to discuss issues with the state legislators.

Electric Cooperative Lobby Day

Ninety Illinois electric cooperative directors, managers and staff visited the Illinois State Capitol on Wednesday, March 20 to fly the co-op flag and build important relationships with their local legislators. Representing Western Illinois Electrical Coop. at Electric Cooperative Lobby Day were Manager Todd Grotts and William Newton, director. They spoke with Representative Randy Frese and Representative Norine Hammond whose districts include their co-op territory regarding issues of importance to electric cooperative members. They (6616-5) discussed various pieces of legislation currently being debated in Springfield, sharing how those proposals could impact cooperatives and their members. This included the various energy proposals that have



WIEC Manager Todd Grotts meets with State Representative Maureen Hammond.

been filed, Senate Bill 1304/House Bill 1633 which would expand criminal penalties for damage to critical

infrastructure facilities and Senate Bill 1304/House Bill 2839 on administrative decision review.

Security lights

A small price to pay for home safety and security

As you drive around the countryside at night, security lights dot the horizon. Each security light is added safety and protection to the farm or home it illuminates. A well-lit yard or residence provides:

- Safety – to avoid injury when outside in the yard after dark
- Security – to help deter prowlers and varmints, discourage vandals and welcome you home to a lighted yard
- Productivity – a little extra “day-light” can be very valuable when it gets dark so early in the winter months

WIEC is offering LED lights to our members, either for rent or for purchase. Although the LED lights cost more, they do last longer, use much less electricity and are more durable than their predecessors. They do not contain a gas or an element of any kind. Instead, the entire LED is made up of a semiconductor, which is solid in nature and makes LEDs more durable. LED achieves full illumination immediately. They have an estimated lifespan of almost 50,000 hours, which works out to about 11 years (working 12 hours a day). **(6532-78)** All this will reduce the repair and maintenance costs WIEC incur.

The replacement LED lights will have a bright white light instead of the amber color of the previous high-pressure sodium lights. The pricing for the LED security lights is below.

40W LED Rental Costs:

\$5/month—Member pays for electricity; WIEC maintains lights

\$10/month – WIEC pays for electricity and maintenance

\$289 plus tax – Purchase the light with free installation

Either way you choose, a security light can be very useful as it lights your way around your home or farm.



2019 nominating committee members include: (L-R) Bryan Stevens, Max Roskamp, Robert Menn, Austin Ufkes, Jonathan Fecht and Harold Herdrich.

2019 nominating committee results

The 2019 nominating committee met at the WIEC office on March 26 and April 2 to make nominations for directors. Two directors will be elected at the cooperative’s annual meeting on Thursday, June 27.

Serving on the committee were Bradley Flatt, Media; Spencer Berry, Nauvoo; Harold (Tony) Herdrich, Dallas City; Jason Jacquot, Jonathan Fecht and Austin Ufkes, all of Carthage; Bryan Stevens, West Point; Robert Menn, Plymouth; and Max Roskamp, Sutter.

The following were nominated for director positions:

District 4 – Kent Flesner, West Point

District 5 – Mark Burling, Carthage

The nominations have been posted at the Carthage office, as stipulated by the cooperative’s bylaws. Any nominations made by petition will be included on the official ballot if they are brought to the **(6726-2)** WIEC office at least 10 days before the meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: *energy.gov*

