

Grotts named manager of WIEC

The Board of Directors of Western Illinois Electrical Coop. has chosen Todd Grotts to succeed Tommie Long as manager. He will be the sixth manager at WIEC since it began in 1938. Grotts currently serves as manager of operations and has been employed with the cooperative since 2008. This management transition will be effective July 1, 2018.

Current Manager Long says, "Todd's knowledge and understanding of our system and his familiarity

with our membership makes him well suited for this position. He and I have an excellent working relationship which will provide an easy transition."

Todd started at WIEC as staking technician/materials clerk. A Carthage High School graduate, Todd attended Lincoln Land Community College earning an electrical technician associate degree. Todd and his wife, Chelle, live in Carthage and have four children. He enjoys hunting, golfing and he is active in his kids' activities.



Manager Tommie Long (l) with the next Manager, Todd Grotts (r).

Message from the Manager

I am honored and privileged to be chosen as the next manager for WIEC. WIEC has given me a wonderful opportunity as I step into this new



position. The co-op has great employees along with a board of directors that is dedicated

and committed to WIEC and its members. I look forward to continuing to work with the employees, the board and the members to make sure WIEC rates stay competitive while delivering safe, reliable electricity for many more years to come. I have also been very fortunate to have worked for Paul Dion and Tommie Long – two very successful managers for WIEC with over 80 years of experience between them. It will be difficult to follow in their footsteps, but they have both taught me valuable skills that I can use to help me become a successful manager for WIEC and its members.



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Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Rob Gronewold** —
President, Carthage
- **Jay Morrison** —
Vice President, Niota
- **Janet Spory** —
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- **William Newton** —
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STAFF

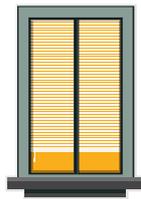
- **Todd Grotts** — Manager
- **Becky Dickinson** — Office
Manager

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.

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

Youth to Washington winners announced

Two students will represent WIEC during the Youth to Washington (Y2W) Tour, June 8-15. John Steck and Colten Shipman won the trip as part of the Youth to Washington WebQuiz. John is the son of Bill and Brenda Steck and attends West Central High School, Biggsville. Colten is the son of Rodney and Holly Shipman and attends Illini West High School, Carthage.

The “Youth to Washington” tour gives these students the chance to travel to our nation’s capital along with 71 other exceptional high school students selected from other Illinois cooperatives. They’ll have a chance to meet with key congressional legislators, including the Illinois Senators and Representatives. Students will spend the week (10532-13-1) visiting historically significant national sites, touring some of our most moving memorials, and browsing the campus of our nation’s capital. During their time in D.C., they will visit the United States Holocaust Museum, Air and Space Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and visit the Supreme Court. And those are just a few of the things that are planned. On the way to Washington, they will stop and visit the Gettysburg Battlefield.



Youth to Washington winners came to a WIEC board meeting to thank the board for the opportunity to go on the Youth Tour. From left to right: WIEC Manager Tommie Long, Colten Shipman, John Steck and WIEC Board President Rob Gronewold.

Many past participants refer to it as “a trip of a lifetime.”

The tour is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding rural young people to better understand the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes them with the historic and political environment of our nation’s capital through first-hand looks at monuments,

government buildings, and cooperative organizations. By visiting with our elected officials gives them a better understanding of federal government, the political process and democracy in (3616-9) general.

We congratulate John and Colten and wish them a great time!

How much is your old air conditioner costing you?

Does it feel like your old air conditioner is costing you too much? Now is the perfect time to consider geothermal heating and cooling. It’s clean, it’s efficient, and with WIEC’s 7.5 cent year-around rate and financing available, it’s the smart way to go.

There is also a 30 percent federal tax credit for anyone who installs a geo system. These credits help make the installation (3925-3) cost a little more affordable and the obvious best choice for heating and cooling.

Call our office for more details!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Here’s a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov

Save during vacations

Summertime means vacations are in full swing. It can also mean higher utility costs, but some big and small changes can help you save some money while you are away.

- Changing the temperature of your home. Turning up your thermostat to 85 degrees could lower your bill by 35 percent a week. If you have pets, 85 degrees will still be cool enough to keep them comfortable (3721-39) while you are away
- Another big cost saver is turning off your water heater. If you are not going to be home, your water heater does not need to be running. A water heater can cost about a \$1 a day, so you could save a few bucks just by switching that breaker while you are on vacation
- Shutting the blinds and curtains to keep the sun from heating up your home
- Turning off all power strips
- Unplug small appliances, especially if they have clocks or electronic display
- If you want to leave some lights on while you are away, buy a timer. The timer will ensure that your lights will be on for a short amount of time versus using energy all day long.

For more ways you can save on your utility bill, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Work is underway on the new Elvaston Substation. PPI is upgrading and expanding the substation with a goal of increasing reliability and safety. The new sub is being built directly east of the existing one.



Office closed

WIEC's office will be closed on July 4.

Happy Birthday America!

Hancock County 4-H BBQ



Wednesday, July 11th, 2018

5:00—7:00 pm

U of I Extension - 550 N Madison, Carthage

Live Auction of Baked Goods and Themed Baskets at 6:30.
Fashion Revue and General Exhibit Awards Show at 7:00

4-H Fair exhibits will be on display during the BBQ

\$7.00 (Advanced) - \$8.00 (at Door)

Drive-Thru pick up available in front of WIEC

Menu:

Pork Chop Sandwich Or 2 Hot Dogs ~ Green Beans ~ Applesauce ~ Chips ~ Drink (Dine-in only)