



West Central Electric Cooperative

AUGUST 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Youth Tour travels to D.C. again

Rural Electric Youth Tour delegates
make the trip to our nation's capital
for the first time since 2019
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Reminders for the Aug. 5
Annual Meeting to be held
at UCM in Warrensburg

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Don't forget to use your
Co-op Connections card
at area merchants and
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Do you know the difference
between electrical safety
myths and facts?



ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AUG. 5, 2022

Don't forget to bring your annual meeting registration card to the Multipurpose Building on the campus of the University of Central Missouri Friday, Aug. 5. Registration begins and the meal is served at 5 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7 p.m.

This card must be brought to the annual meeting in order to register for prizes and vote in the election of the board of directors and the bylaw amendment.

***Due to removal of the Multipurpose Building swimming pool, we will not be able to offer swimming for the kids during annual meeting.**

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION PUBLISHES IN OCTOBER

Because of printing deadlines, coverage of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting will be published in the October issue of Electric News.

For election results, check the WCE Facebook page following the meeting.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

To report outages 24/7:

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • or report outages at www.westcentralelectric.coop under "View & Report Outages"

District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

General Manager:

Mike Gray

Board of Directors:

Densil Allen, Jr. *President*; Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice-Pres.*; Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*; Robert Simmons, *Secretary*; Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Sect.*; Richard Strobel, *Director*; Sandra Streit, *Director*; Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*; Donald Fore, *Director*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Beware of scam calls, and never give your personal information over the phone

Scammers are targeting energy consumers everywhere. They often call threatening to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. Or they may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit.

Never give out personal information to anyone who calls claiming to be from your utility!

Many of these scam attempts play out like this: the caller poses as a representative of your power provider, says you are behind on the bill and a truck is on the way to disconnect your service unless you pay your bill right now – over the phone. Some ask their targets to purchase prepaid cards and call back with the prepaid card number to pay the bill.

Don't fall for these scams!

"We frequently have members contact us to say they have received these type of calls, and we try to get alerts out on our Facebook page each time to warn members that it is happening again," Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said. "West Central Electric will never call demanding immediate payment over the phone. If you get this type of a call, or have questions about your bill, call us yourself and ask about your account. Never give out personal information over the phone."

Attempts have also been made in person at the door or via email. If your provider needs to replace or service equipment in your home, they will contact you in advance. Never respond to an email that claims to be from your utility that provides a link for payment or asks for personal information.

"This goes for all utilities, not just electric companies," Hoflander said.

If consumers suspect someone is trying to scam them, they should hang up, delete the email, or shut the door. They should call their utility at the number on their monthly bill or the utility's website, not the phone number the scammer provides. If consumers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 911.

Consumers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud should also contact local law enforcement authorities. The Federal Trade Commission's website (www.ftc.gov) is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information.

Could you use a \$500 scholarship?? Well, it's EASY!

COME VISIT US during the Missouri State Fair at the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building Aug. 11-21 to fill out an application!
Missouri Electric Cooperatives will draw from eligible applications for FOUR \$500 scholarships!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS MUST:

- Visit the Missouri Electric Cooperative building during the 11 days of the state fair.
- Complete an application form and return to the Missouri Electric Cooperative building during the fair.
- Show a letter of acceptance from a college, university and/or vocational, technical school if picked to receive a scholarship.

Hey co-op members...don't forget to use your Co-op Connections card at these area businesses!!

Abe Thompson RV Service Center
At Ease Coffee and Design
Bates City Antiques
Friesz's Donuts
Hannah Banana's Coffee & More
Jamie's Place
My Sister's Garden
Pat's Army & Sporting Goods
Riverside Nutrition
STG Feed & Animal Health

Alumbaugh, Inc. Heating & Cooling
Awesome Blossoms
Dave's Corner Garage
Generations Cafe
Higginsville Printing
K&A Creations Crafters Market
Oak Grove Chiropractic
Pigeon's Nest
Shades Salon
Vitality

Arcadian Moon
Banner Coulson Chevrolet
Dempsey's BBQ
Glam Guru, LLC
Hoflander Ford, Inc.
Michelle's Place
Odessa Nutrition
Pure Life Photography
Sign Gypsies

MORE SAVINGS, MORE SUPPLIES.



The one card that does it all.
Connections.coop



Youth Tour

is trip of a lifetime for local students

What makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities is that “giving something back to the community” is part of their business plan. Why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington, D.C.? Because it is important to learn about the political process and to interact with your government. Students walk away from this week a better leader and with a sense that they can make a difference.

“Meeting with my representative and seeing how charismatic and nice she was in person definitely made me more interested in Missouri’s political figures,” said delegate Jacob Bacus.

In June, Bacus, along with fellow delegates Caton Brown and Shayla Joseph, joined more than 90 other youth from across Missouri on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour--the first since 2019.

Time and again, delegates both past and present choose the same words to describe their experience, calling Youth Tour “the trip of a lifetime,” and basking in the experiences and friendships they gained while in our nation’s capital.

“Going to D.C. is by far one of the most memorable and enriching experiences I’ve ever had. It truly was the trip of a lifetime,” Joseph said.

More than 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program, with participants going on to become doctors, teachers, aircraft designers, law enforcement officers and even top legislators in the U.S. Senate. Delegates also return with a new appreciation of America and her history.

“Being able to see the memorials and monuments that I’d first learned about in kindergarten was really amazing and really made all the stories about United States history seem more real,” Bacus said.

“Youth Tour was probably one of the most amazing experiences I have ever gotten to be a part of,” Brown said. “I got the opportunity to see so much, and meet so many amazing people. I would encourage anyone to enter and get to experience truly the trip of a lifetime. I want to thank WCE for sponsoring me and providing me this opportunity that I will never forget!” Brown said.

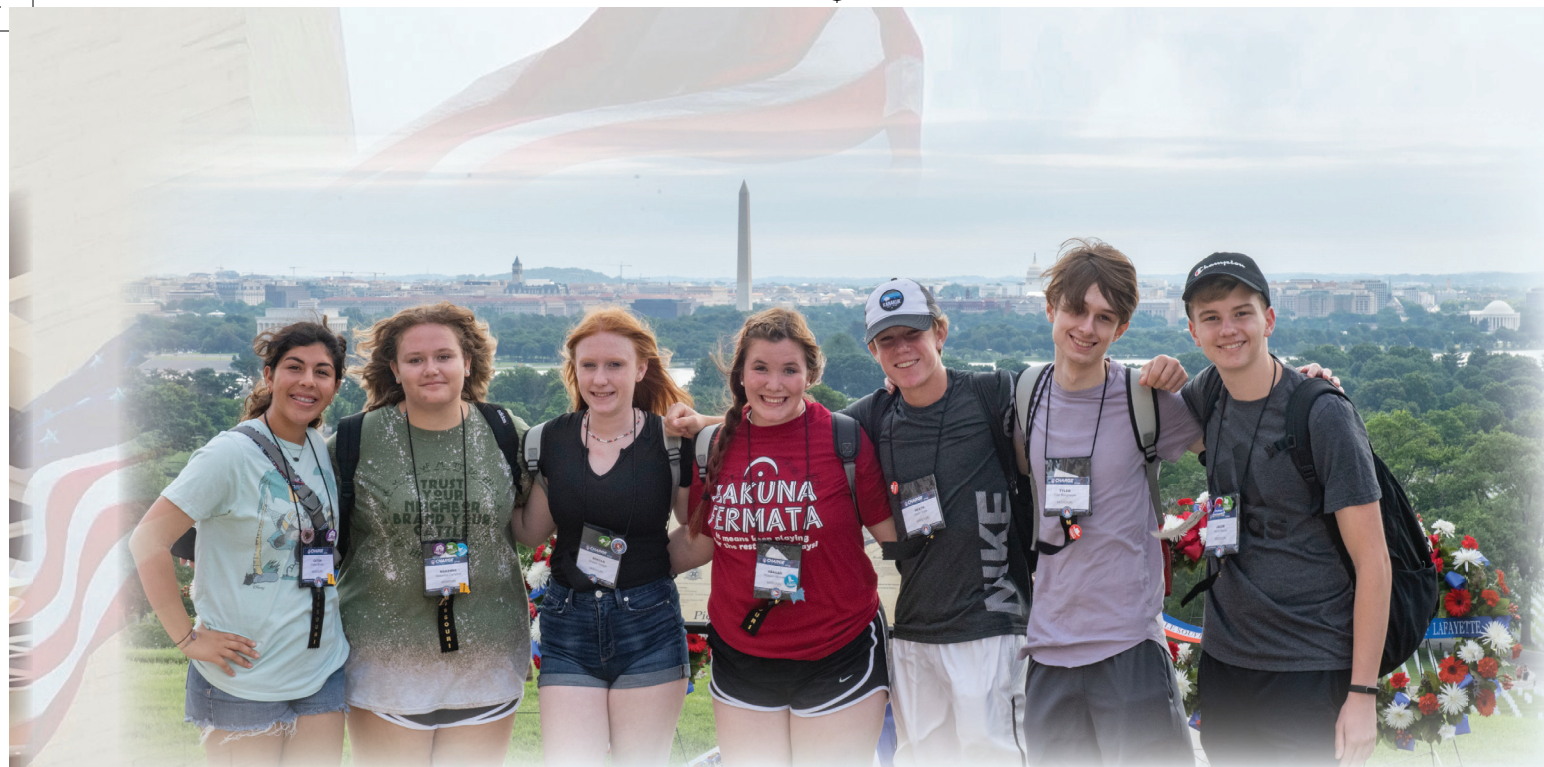
WCE has sent 72 area students to our nation’s capital since reestablishing the Youth Tour program at the cooperative in 1992.



WCE Youth Tour delegates (l-r) Caton Brown, Jacob Bacus and Shayla Joseph, attend the Youth Tour kick-off reception before embarking on their trip to D.C.

“Going to D.C. is by far one of the most memorable and enriching experiences I’ve ever had. It truly was the trip of a lifetime.”

--Shayla Joseph
2022 YouthTour Delegate



WCE delegates share an afternoon with new friends at Mount Vernon on the Potomac River, home George and Martha Washington.

“Youth Tour was probably one of the most amazing experiences I have ever gotten to be a part of. I got the opportunity to see so much, and meet so many amazing people. This trip blew my expectations out of the water.”

--Caton Brown
2022 YouthTour Delegate



Jacob at Arlington National Cemetery (above) and Shayla at the Smithsonian Museums (below.)



WCE and fellow Missouri delegates on the Patomac River dance cruise.





Annabelle (left) and Everly Miller, daughters of WCE Youth Tour alum Emily Null Miller, show off a photo of their mom on the 2003 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Youth Tour alum's children get a cooperative crash course from grandma

Mom, Emily Null represented WCE on the 2003 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Annabelle (9) and Everly (6) Miller, daughters of 2003 Youth Tour delegate Emily Null Miller, recently visited the West Central Electric Cooperative headquarters in Higginsville with their grandmother, Ann Null.

Ann, who now lives in Overland Park, Kan., brought the girls back to the family's old stomping grounds earlier this summer to show them around. Emily, who was a graduate of Santa Fe High School, grew up in the Alma/Waverly area, and represented WCE on the annual trip to Washington, D.C.

The girls' weekend included an afternoon at the orchards, ice cream, and a stop at WCE where they got to see a picture of their mom as a Youth Tour delegate in the Electric News archives, as well as a photo of their great-grandfather who was a member of the cooperative board of directors. Null told the girls about her father, Morris Evans, who was elected during the cooperative's first organizational meeting on Aug. 10, 1939, and served as the first secretary of the board.

"I remember him talking about going door-to-door to talk to people about the cooperative when he started," Null said. "He started going farm-to-farm because he knew people," she said.

The girls were excited to see the photo of their mom as a teenager, but even more excited to hit the orchards for fresh peaches.



WCE was back at 4-H Camp at Camp Bobwhite in Knob Noster this summer for electric safety demonstrations. Power Town was a hit with campers from 4-H clubs in Cass, Clay, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Ray & St. Clair counties. Campers also saw the "How Does Electricity Happen?" presentation which teaches kids how electricity is made and how it gets to us.

Know the facts when it comes to electric safety

We live in a world where we rely on electricity every day. From the power lines along the road to the outlets in homes, danger could potentially be lurking around every corner if you do not know the facts about electricity. What some may think to be common knowledge may actually be myth. Make sure you know the difference. It might save your life one day.

Here are some common electrical myths proven false:

Myth: Once a line is down, it is dead.

FACT: The electric current does not always turn off when a power line is down. Even if lines do not show signs of life (arcing, smoking, popping), they can still hold dangerous electrical current. Always treat a downed wire as energized because there is no way for you to know by looking whether it is hot or not. Just always stay away, and keep others away.

Myth: All power lines are insulated.

FACT: Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating on the lines is actually for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current. Even if a power line is insulated, it can crack due to weather reducing its safety. No matter the case, it is never safe to touch a power line.

Myth: There is no need to worry about power lines when digging a hole.

FACT: Always call 811 before you dig to have a professional come to your home and locate buried public utility lines free of charge. No matter the size of a digging project, if you come into contact with a buried power line, you could be electrocuted or seriously injured.

Myth: Household electrical currents are not powerful enough to cause death.

FACT: Household current can kill. At 10 years of age, Caitlyn MacKenzie touched a lamp while still damp from swimming and was electrocuted by a household current. Make sure outlets, especially in the kitchen, bathroom, garage and outdoors, are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). This type of outlet provides protection from electrical shock.

Myth: It is safe to work around a power line at home as long as direct contact is not made.

FACT: Always keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines. This goes for ladders, pool skimmers, pruning poles, and any other equipment. Always be aware of where power lines are so you do not risk electric shock. If you are trimming trees or attempting any do-it-yourself project near power lines, always call professionals for the job.

Myth: It is safe to remove the third prong from a plug.

FACT: The third prong is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution. That prong grounds the electrical current. If the outlet is only fit for a two prong plug, replace the outlet with a three prong or a GFCI outlet.

Myth: Rubber gloves and rubber soled shoes insulate electric currents.

FACT: Although it is true that items made from 100 percent rubber insulate electricity, many household rubber items, such as rubber gloves, are not made of pure rubber. Oftentimes, these items are manufactured with additives to make these products more durable. Consequently, this makes these items act as conductors instead of insulators.

What do you know?

Myth vs. **FACT**

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 26, 2022

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen, Jr. Sheri Smiley, attorney for the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Densil Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Don Fore and Jeremy Ahmann. Absent was Richard Strobel. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and CFO Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 2022; expenditures for the month of April 2022; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following April reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the April 2022 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. Bad debt write off of \$12,557.84 was approved. He provided the audit prepared by Kelso Lynch, P.C., P.A. It was a clean audit and will be presented in August.

Operations Report: Scott Gard provided a written Operations Report and presented the report to the board. His report included the following: update on crews, outages for the month, a mechanic's report, and updates on brush crews and right-of-way. Two bids were received for the wire reel storage building, a steel building for \$183,490 and a wood building for \$182,225.00. The board accepted the bid for the steel building.

Safety and Engineering Report: Pete Nelson provided a written Safety and Engineering Report and presented the report to the board. Safety meetings, crew visits, and an engineer/staking department report was given. MECIP inspected the work crew and found no problems. New loads were discussed.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up, that a presentation was given at a school's Ag Day and that he attended the Cooperative Fish Fry at the Capitol. Solar systems and rebates given were also reported on as well as chamber meetings attended.

IT Report

Tim Bowler gave the IT Report. He reported on the new West Central website that will soon be launched. Virtual servers have been updated. An update



on cyber security was given.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the executive committee report. He went through the audit. The next regular meeting is in June. State legislation was discussed. AMEC hired a broad band consultant. An update was given on the annexation lawsuit.

NW ELECTRIC REPORT

Simmons reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting held May 19, 2022. He reported on a planter accident that NW was not involved in but that did take out some of NW's line. He discussed outages and the policy on mileage.

AECI ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Jarman and Bredehoeft gave updates on the AECI annual meeting speakers and updates on AECI facilities.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Smiley gave the nominating committee report. She reported that the committee had nominated Don Fore and Colby Dowell from District 1, Stan Rhodes from District 2 and Sandra Streit for District 4.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He discussed issues with the bank drops not accepting cash payments for members' bills and that he will bring back more information to the next meeting on a possible alternative. He discussed the mileage policy and it was decided the policy committee would review the policy. The CFC Integrity Fund was reported on. A donation of \$250.00 to the account so the co-op could participate in the benefits of the account.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • April 2022

	This month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Revenue	\$2,452,934	\$11,927,408	\$11,023,185
Power Bill Expense	1,370,470	6,549,026	6,111,228
Operation & Maint. Expense	556,783	2,238,684	2,172,131
Depreciation Expense	211,366	837,073	797,978
Interest Expense	112,870	447,591	460,539
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,251,489	10,072,374	9,541,876
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	201,445	1,855,034	1,481,309
Other Margins	12,981	66,331	48,233
TOTAL MARGINS	\$214,426	\$1,921,365	\$1,529,542

