



West Central Electric Cooperative

September 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

CYCLE 2022 back in Jeff

Co-ops glad to host youth
conference in-person again
this year in capital city

PAGES 2-3

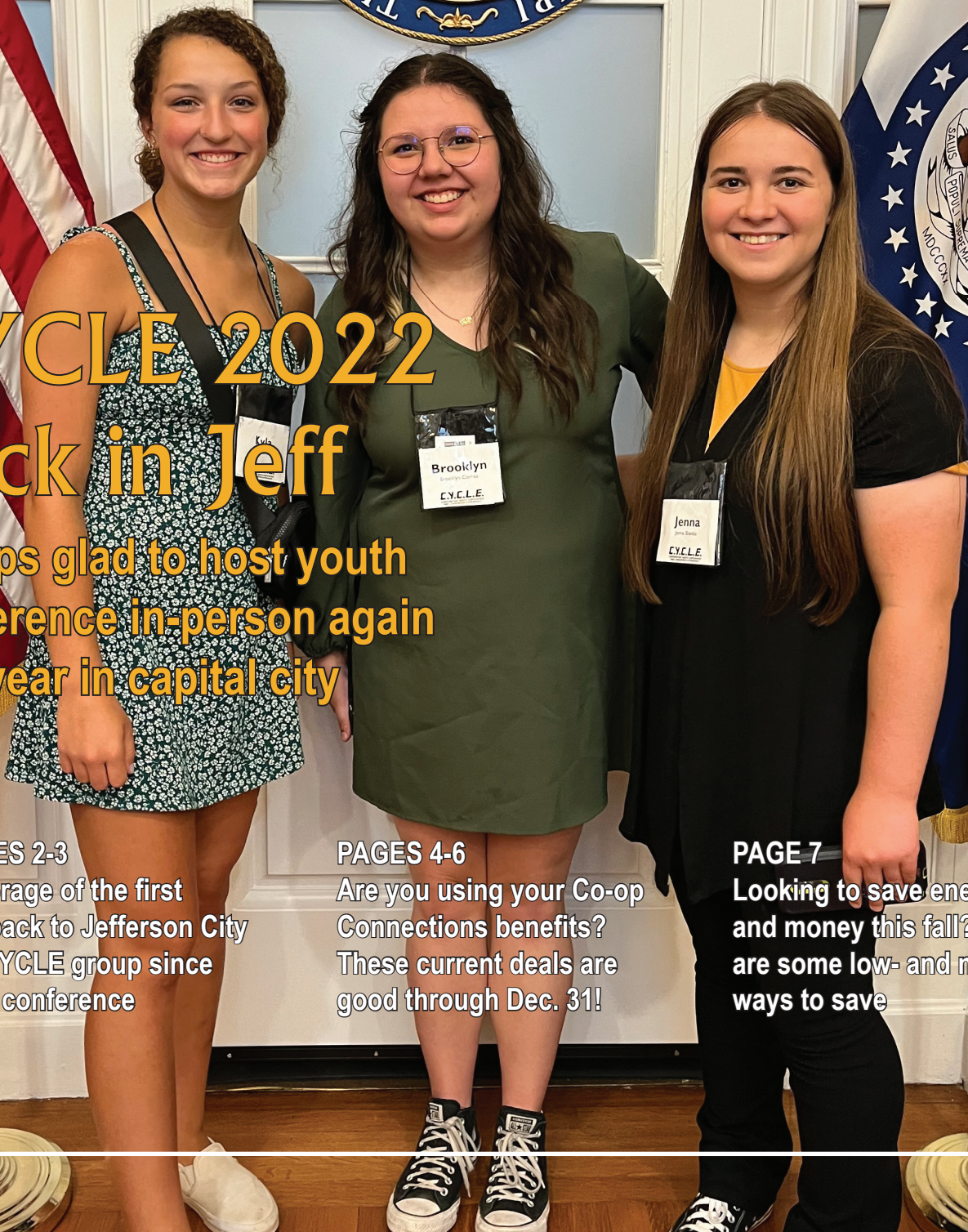
Coverage of the first
trip back to Jefferson City
for CYCLE group since
2019 conference

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Are you using your Co-op
Connections benefits?
These current deals are
good through Dec. 31!

PAGE 7

Looking to save energy
and money this fall? Here
are some low- and no-cost
ways to save



REMINDER
ANNUAL MEETING COVERAGE
PUBLISHES IN OCTOBER

***Because of printing deadlines,
coverage of the
2022 Annual Membership Meeting
held Aug. 5, 2022
will be published in the
October issue of Electric News.***

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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.

ON THE COVER: Kyla Brandes, Brooklyn Correa and Jenna Shanks, CYCLE delegates from Crest Ridge High School, spent time in the Capitol Building finding their elected officials' offices.

CYCLE challenges students to become greater leaders

For three days in July, Jefferson City was home to some of the best and brightest students Missouri has to offer. The event was the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, and it was attended by high school juniors and seniors from across the state chosen to represent their local cooperatives.

The goal of CYCLE is to be a leadership development stepping stone for youth. By cooperatives getting involved in helping develop their leadership potential, the hope is for delegates go back to their communities, continue to learn from local leaders, educators and co-op staff so when they get into positions of leadership later in life, they remember the cooperatives' way of thinking.

Delegates participate in leadership activities, cooperative education and hands-on government. Delegates secure a spot at this award-winning youth conference through their participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour and CYCLE essay contest.

From the introductory "Can You Find Me?" game, students are energized and off and running from daybreak until lights out, forging friendships and discovering more about themselves. While the conference is short, CYCLE is jam-packed with activity from the team-building exercise "Build a Cooperative" game, to a visit to the Missouri State Penitentiary and the Capitol Building. Delegates also author and debate their own bill.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to go on this trip," Brandes said.

Motivational sessions with guest speakers include Dan Meers, (KC Wolf) and the Rachel's Challenge group, which shows students how they can start a chain reaction of compassion in their own communities. In the Rachel's Challenge presentation, they hear about Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, and how she stood up and made a difference in the lives of others in just a few short years. This year's delegates were privileged to hear from Rachel's uncle, Larry Scott.

"I enjoyed listening to all of the guest speakers at CYCLE," Beeler said. "They all had great messages and were fun to listen to. I'm very glad I had the opportunity to be involved with this program."

For more information about the 2023 Youth Tour and CYCLE contest, contact Heather Hoflander at 800-491-3803 or heather@wcecoop.com.



WCE CYCLE delegates (l-r) Aubriana Beeler, Brooklyn Correa, Kyla Brandes and Jenna Shanks tour the Missouri State Penitentiary.



Kyla is interviewed by Rural Missouri magazine editor Zach Smith.



Aubri (center) works with her team to build a cooperative system.



Brooklyn (right) and a teammate learn how a cooperative system functions during CYCLE 2022.



Kyla, Jenna and Brooklyn spent part of their afternoon at the Capitol Building searching out the offices of their district's legislators and other state officials.

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app at connections.coop

or

Contact West Central Electric to
get your Co-op Connections card
and start getting your
co-op member benefits!

CO-OP CONNECTIONS IS LIVE!

Fall into a wealth of savings by using your
Co-op Connections card or get the app on
your phone to start saving
WITH THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES TODAY!

**Offers good through Dec. 31, 2022
additional limits and exclusions may apply*

Warrensburg:



Awesome Blossoms

**\$5 off your purchase of
\$20 or more**

212 N. Holden St.
660-747-7673



Friesz's Donuts

**10% off any yeast product
after noon daily**

629 E. Young St.
660-429-6300

Lexington:



River Reader
Bookstore

**Free Drink with
\$20 purchase**

1010 Main St., Lexington MO 64067
660-259-4996

Riverside
Nutrition

**\$2 off per visit plus extra
\$1 off for social media
post tagging Riverside
Nutrition**

1027 Franklin Ave.
660-259-3227

PAT'S ARMY &
SPORTING GOODS

Sporting Goods, Letter Jackets,
New & Used Guns and Licenses

Pat's Army &
Sporting Goods

**Graduation year patch
50% off with purchase
of a letter jacket**

1202 Main St.
660-259-3462

Concordia:



Dempsey's BBQ

**Free drink with
purchase of an adult meal**

**Limit one per visit*
103 NE 2nd St.
660-463-7232

Higginsville:



Arcadian Moon

15% off ONE food item
Sunday through Thursday

**Limit one per order*

19203 W. Old 40 Highway
660-584-6661



Glam Guru, LLC

\$20 off a full set
of eyelash extensions

**One-time use, new clients only*

200 Fairground Ave.
(inside Hair Grafix)
816-565-5268



Hoflander Ford

\$2 off oil change
10% off accessories

**Accessories offer excludes labor*

1807 Main St.
660-584-2151



Hannah Bananas
Coffee & More

\$2 off any purchase
of \$10 or more

**One-time use only*

Offer good at Higginsville,
& Clinton locations
2009 Walnut St. Higginsville
1669 N. 2nd St. Clinton



Vitality

\$2 off mega teas on
Wednesdays

1721 N. Main St.
660-641-4385



Shades Salon

Buy 10 tans, get one free
Buy 10 red light sessions,
get one free

500 Fairground Ave.
660-584-7745



Banner-Coulson
Chevrolet

10% discount on oil
changes

**Limit one-time use per customer*

3401 Highway 13 Blvd.
660-584-2175

Generations
Cafe

Complimentary coffee
with purchase of any
breakfast item

**One-time use per customer*

1911 N. Main St.
660-584-7727



Higginsville Printing

First Friday of each month
take 10% off new
business card orders

1808 Main St.
660-584-7721



Pure Life Photography

Upgrade your 16x20
wall portrait to a 20x24
at no charge

1906 Main St.
660-584-7873



Sign Gypsies
of Lafayette County

\$5 off sign rental

**One use per year*

**Graduation set-ups excluded*

Covering Lafayette County
816-405-8784



Alumbaugh, Inc.
Heating & Cooling

\$20 off a service call
within a 40-mile radius of
Higginsville

**Must show card or app.*

2011 Shelby St.
660-584-3401

Odessa:



Odessa Nutrition

**Free regular tea (\$5 value)
with purchase of a shake**

**Offer good Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.*

**Bring a friend, they get \$2 off
their purchase*

104 S. 2nd St.

816-328-6583

Mayview:



Dave's Corner Garage

\$5 off oil change

**Limit one time per customer*

500 W. Long St.

660-237-4545



Michelle's Place

**Free kid's meal with the
purchase of one adult
meal**

400 W. Marshall St.

660-237-4433

**Welcome to our newest
Co-op Connections business!**



River Reader Bookstore

Free Drink with \$20 purchase

1010 Main St., Lexington MO 64067

660-259-4996

Oak Grove:



Abe Thompson RV
Service Center

**10% off all repairs up to
\$2,000**

*(Discounts are always offered to
military and first responders)*

510 N. Broadway

816-690-2163



Oak Grove Chiropractic

**10% off massage,
Free chiropractic
consultation**

705 S. Broadway

816-625-1598



STG Feed & Animal Health

\$5 off a \$50 purchase

**Offer good for use once per month*

605B S. Broadway

816-625-1018

Holden:



K&A Creations
Crafter's Market

20% off one item any time

114 W. 3rd St.

816-877-6892

**Contact us to see how your
business can join the
Co-op Connections
program and get
FREE advertising!**

Locate leaks before the cold sets in

The best way to measure air leaks in your home is through a blower door test that depressurizes the house. This test is typically part of an energy audit conducted by a qualified technician. Check with WCE to inquire about an energy audit for your home.

Even without a blower door test, here's how to find some air leaks, according to the U.S. Department of Energy:

Outside inspection – On the outside of your house, inspect:

- All areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, outdoor water faucets, where siding and chimneys meet and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet
- Exterior storm windows and doors ensuring they are secure
- Regular windows and doors – if you can rattle them or see daylight around them, you've got leaks

Inside inspection – Inside your home, look for any cracks and gaps in the following areas:

- Electrical outlets and switch plates

- Door and window frames
- Electrical and gas service entrances
- Baseboards
- Weatherstripping around doors
- Fireplace dampers
- Attic hatches
- Wall- or window-mounted a/c units.
- Cable TV and phone lines
- Where dryer vents pass through walls
- Vents and fans
- Pipes and wires, foundation seals, even mail slots

To do your own blower-door pressurization test to find leaks, DOE says to:

5. Turn off all combustion appliances, such as gas-burning furnaces and water heaters, on a cool, very windy day; if you don't want to turn off the furnace, turn on all exhaust fans
6. Shut all windows, exterior doors and fireplace flues
7. Turn on all exhaust fans that blow air outside, such as your clothes dryer, bathroom fans, or stove vents, or use a large window fan to suck the air out of the rooms
8. Light an incense stick and pass it around the edges of common leak sites; wherever the smoke wavers or is sucked out of or blown into the room, there's a draft; you also can also use a damp hand to locate leaks – drafts will feel cool to your hand



Looking to save energy and \$\$\$?

Low-cost, no-cost ways to reduce your energy usage

Save on Energy at www.saveonenergy.com/learning-center/post/save-energy-this-fall/ suggests:

Keep thermostat at 68 degrees or below – Setting back the thermostat, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, can reduce heating costs by as much as 10 percent. Though DOE recommends setting your daytime cool season temperature at 68 degrees and reducing it at night, even a 3- to 4-degree setback will save on heating costs. If you have a heat pump, you're already saving money on heating costs; a few degrees' setback will save even more.

Check for cracks, leaks and drafts – Check all your doors and windows for air leakage that could cause your furnace to run overtime. Look for cracks, even tiny ones, in the exterior surface that could leak air. Use caulk and weather stripping to seal cracks and holes. Even a simple "draft dodger" to close door gaps can help.

Take note of the fireplace – If not using the fireplace, close the damper. Buy energy-efficient fireplace grates that draw cool air into the fireplace and push warm air into the room.

Let the sunshine in – Open blinds and curtains of south-facing

windows during the day, and close them at night to trap in the heat. Plant deciduous trees that provide shade in the summer but lose their leaves in the winter, allowing more sunlight to warm your house.

Reverse the spin of ceiling fans – Set the fan direction to clockwise to push warm air (it rises) below. In warm weather, adjust the direction to counterclockwise.

Replace HVAC filter – Excess dust in a filter can reduce airflow or increase resistance, which can strain your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Check and/or replace filters each month.

Conserve heat with aluminum foil – Placing a piece of foil behind your radiator will help reflect heat back into your home.



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held June 23, 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, June 23, 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. Megan McCord, 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, Jeremy Ahmann and Donald Fore. Richard Strobel was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and CFO Michael Newland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered executive session to discuss legal matters. Following executive session, the board resumed the meeting.

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 May 26, 2022; expenditures for the month of May 2022; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following May reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the May 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.

Operations Report: Randy Burkeybile 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

Safety and Engineering Report: The board reviewed 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.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up, Youth Tour, and meeting room repairs. Solar systems and rebates given were also reported on as well as chamber meetings attended.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the statewide report. Items of interest included a legislative report; dues committee report; and AECI report.

APPOINT AMEC BOARD MEMBER AND VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

Bredehoeft was named AMEC board member and voting delegate to the AMEC annual meeting and Gray was named alternate.

NW ELECTRIC REPORT

Simmons reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting. He reported on an unplanned outage at Thomas Hill Unit 3 and employee retention discussion.

LEGAL REPORT

McCord presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He discussed preparations being made for the Annual Meeting and an upcoming salary survey by Dan Brunning

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • May 2022

	This month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Revenue	\$2,119,202	\$14,046,611	\$12,870,875
Power Bill Expense	1,386,840	7,935,866	7,332,235
Operation & Maint. Expense	511,000	2,749,683	2,644,923
Depreciation Expense	211,926	1,049,001	1,000,131
Interest Expense	113,069	560,660	575,192
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,222,835	12,295,210	11,552,481
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(103,633)	1,751,401	1,318,394
Other Margins	15,808	82,139	54,185
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(87,825)	\$1,833,540	\$1,372,579

