

June 2026



West Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Electric News

Off to D.C. & J.C.

Youth Tour and CYCLE delegates are named
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Annual meeting voting procedures
Be informed on ways to cast your ballot
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Scholarship winners
Meet the recipients
pages 6-7

Important annual meeting announcement on page 3



IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO THEIR COUNTRY SINCE 10 NOVEMBER 1775



Scholarship winners
Meet the recipients
pages 6-7

West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037
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PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-939-3639

To report outages 24/7

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Report online at
www.westcentralelectric.coop under
"Report Outage"

District office

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop



General Manager
Michael Newland

Board of Directors

Densil Allen Jr., *President*
Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice President*
Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*
Robert Simmons, *Secretary*
Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Secretary*
Richard Strobel, *Director*
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*
Colby Dowell, *Director*
Elizabeth Houtsma, *Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Owned by those we serve.

From the manager's desk

New voting procedures add ease for members wanting to participate in annual meeting

Participating in your cooperative is your right as a member-owner. This is something that we hope all of our members see value in, and take advantage of.

One of the easiest and most impactful ways you can be actively involved in your cooperative is by participating in the annual meeting. Each year, we set aside one evening to share information about the state of your cooperative, have good conversation with our valued members, and hold an election of directors tasked with overseeing the operation of your cooperative.

The second of The Seven Cooperative Principles is "Democratic Member Control,"

and that is exactly what is demonstrated during the annual meeting. Regardless of whether you are the highest user of electricity on the system or the lowest, you have an equal say in those who direct your cooperative and the bylaws under which we operate.

If you can't attend the annual meeting

This year, in order to make it easier to vote in your annual meeting election, we are changing our voting procedures a bit. You will still have the option to vote early if you are unable to attend the annual meeting in person on Aug. 28. However, instead of having to request a voting packet, your registration card and ballot



Michael Newland
General Manager

will appear in Rural Missouri magazine as part of the official notice published in the August issue.

That issue will be mailed out to members on Aug. 3. Once it arrives, you will have until Aug. 27 to return your ballot along with your registration card, to the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, who will handle all ballots and voting procedures.

Those attending the annual meeting

Those who are able to attend on Aug. 28 will bring that official registration card

with you to the meeting to register for prizes and vote. Instead of paper ballots, members will vote on iPads provided by AMEC, and they will have representatives available to assist you.

Multiple cooperatives across the state have used this form of voting through AMEC.

So whether you attend in person or take part through advanced voting, we hope you will participate in your cooperative's annual meeting. We value your input, and we appreciate you being an active member of your cooperative. We'll see you in August!

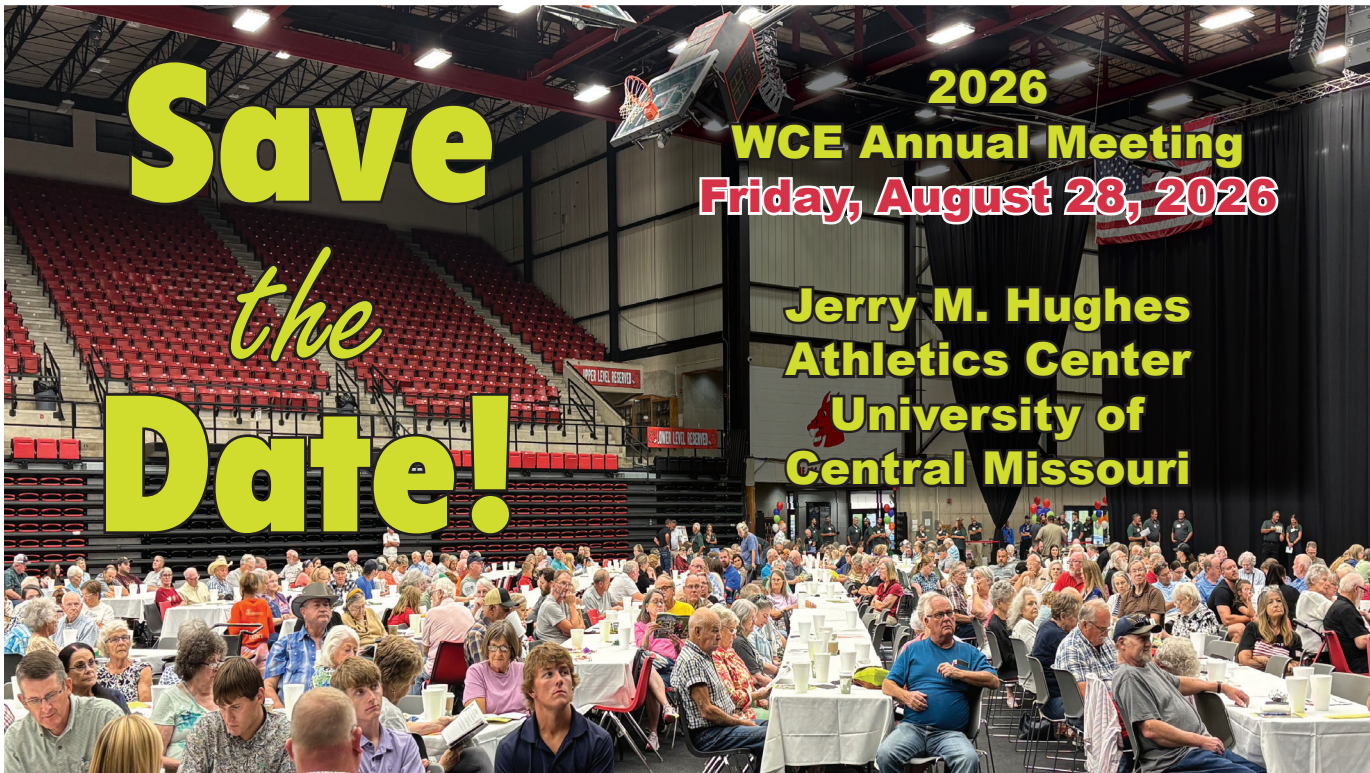
Sincerely,
Michael Newland, CPA
General Manager

"Participating in your cooperative is your right as a member-owner."

General Manager Michael Newland

ON THE COVER: The United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial) located in Arlington Ridge Park in Arlington County, Va. is one of the many places 2026 Youth Tour delegates will visit on their trip to Washington, D.C.

What you need to know



How can I vote in my cooperative's annual election?

Members can participate in advanced voting or vote in person

West Central Electric Cooperative was established in 1939, and this year marks 87 years of dedicated service to our members. The cooperative's longevity and success would not have been possible without the continued involvement and support of our member-owners throughout these nearly nine decades.

Participation in the Annual Meeting is an important way to stay engaged and help ensure the cooperative remains strong for the next 87 years. We encourage all members to take part in this year's meeting, which will be held on **Friday, AUGUST 28 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.**

Your **ANNUAL MEETING OFFICIAL NOTICE** and details of the annual meeting will appear in the **AUGUST 2026** issue of West Central Electric News, along with your **MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD** that you will bring to the meeting to register. Registration cards WILL NOT be included with your bill. The official notice will also include advanced voting materials.

Please note the changes to the right, and contact us with any questions you have regarding annual meeting voting procedures and meeting registration. Please note that **OTHER THAN THE DATE CHANGE**, which was due to circumstances beyond our control, all aspects of the in-person meeting will remain the same including the format of the evening and the location on the UCM campus. Additional details will follow in upcoming issues.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- **DATE CHANGE:** Due to a schedule change from our venue provider, your annual meeting date will be moved to Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. The athletic center will be undergoing resurfacing of the floor, which will not be completed in time for our normal meeting date. All aspects of the in-person meeting will remain the same including the location.

- Your annual meeting member registration card will come to you in your **AUGUST ISSUE** of Rural Missouri Magazine. These cards should be brought to the annual meeting on **AUG. 28** to register for prizes and to vote in the director election.

- Members unable to attend the annual meeting may participate in **ADVANCED VOTING**. Each member will receive a ballot and return envelope in the **AUGUST ISSUE** of Rural Missouri, along with instructions on how to participate.

From your cooperative

New Employee Spotlight



Brayden Barnett • Apprentice Lineman

West Central Electric is pleased to welcome Brayden Barnett as an apprentice lineman working out of the Higginsville location.

Brayden graduated from the Ozark Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Program and interned at Laclede Electric Cooperative before accepting a position at WCE.

A native of Mansfield, Mo., Brayden said his career goal is to become a journeyman lineman. He said working at the cooperative allows him “to chase a dream of mine I’ve had since I was a kid.”

Newly-Appointed RoundUp Foundation Board Members



Mark Wesley

Appointed: **April 2026**

Hometown: **Concordia, Mo.**

Term Expires: **March 2029**



Gail Porter

Appointed: **April 2026**

Hometown: **Odessa, Mo.**

Term Expires: **March 2029**



Brenna Nickels

Appointed: **April 2026**

Hometown: **Odessa, Mo.**

Term Expires: **March 2029**

■ Current RoundUp Foundation members:

President Amy Hoover, Holden; Vice-President Lance Tieman, Higginsville; Secretary Sarah Willard, Warrensburg; Treasurer Melissa Luebbert, Concordia; Members Kim Hall, Warrensburg; Patty Raker, Holden; Mark Wesley, Concordia; Gail Porter, Odessa and Brenna Nickels, Odessa

■ RoundUp board meets quarterly to consider grant applications for funding of local projects.

■ The RoundUp program lets WCE members support their local communities by rounding up their bill to the nearest dollar with the extra going to RoundUp. The average annual donation for most members is around \$6 per year.



**WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC
ROUNDUP FOUNDATION**

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members

From your cooperative

June is recalculation month for members' Level Pay accounts

Members who are on the cooperative's Level Payment Plan will see their bills recalculated with the billing period ending in June. The new level pay amounts will be reflected on all billings that are due June 22 or after.

This Level Payment Plan allows members to pay a consistent, fixed amount each month, smoothing out the seasonal peaks and valleys of energy usage.

West Central Electric Cooperative members who have had service in their name for at least 12 months and maintain a good payment record are eligible for the Level Payment Plan.

How it works:

- The 12-month average is calculated by using the previous 12 months' bills.
- When the member is new to the Level Payment Plan, this 12-month average is the amount the member will pay until the following June when all level pay accounts recalculate.
- Each June during the recalculation of all level pay accounts, we compare and "true up" your previous 12 months' actual bills with what was paid on the Level Payment Plan. Your new 12-month average is determined, and any balance or credit carry-over from the prior year is divided by 12 and added or subtracted to the new 12-month average to determine your next year's monthly level pay amount.
- Your monthly bill, whether mailed or viewed online, allows you to track how your actual usage compares to your Level Payment Plan.

• **Level Pay Account Balance:** This appears **in red type** if your actual energy costs are currently higher than what you have paid.

• **Level Pay Account Credit:** This appears **in green type** if your amount paid is currently higher than your actual energy costs.

To sign up for Level Payment Plan, or if you have any questions, please contact the office at 800-491-3803.

CAPITAL CREDITS (member equity) ALLOCATION FOR 2025

West Central Electric Cooperative's 2025 margins (profits) have been allocated to each member who purchased electricity in 2025. The capital credits, (or member equity), amount allocated can be found on the bill you received in May.

2025 Allocation Calculation

Step 1

Figure your amount billed in 2025

Beginning with the bill reflecting usage for January 2025 and ending with the bill reflecting usage for December 2025.

Step 2

Multiply your total amount billed by the 2025 allocation amount of:

0.182314614754974*

This total will give your amount of capital credits allocated to you for 2025.

2025 Allocation Example

\$1,000 total billing for 2025

$$\begin{array}{r} \$1,000 \\ \times \\ \hline 0.182314614754974* \\ \hline = \\ \$182.31 \\ \text{2025 allocation} \end{array}$$

*This is the amount of member equity **ALLOCATED** to your capital credits account for 2025.*

*This is **NOT** the amount that will be **RETURNED** in 2025. Capital credit returns will be announced and paid to you in July in the form of a bill credit (or a check if no longer an active member.)*

**Applies to residential rate only.
Other rates' allocations available upon request.*

Allocation vs. Return of Capital Credits (member equity)

Allocation: The amount of WCE margins (profits) allocated to a member's capital credit account. This allocation is not an immediate payment to the member. *This process typically occurs each May.*

Return: Later, as financial conditions permit, the co-op board returns (pays) members a portion of what has been allocated to them in the past. *This process typically occurs each July.*

2026 John & Kathryn English Scholars

*Morgan
Nelson*



Walkenezer 4-H Club
4-year, \$1,000 renewable
(potential \$4,000 award)



*Kiley
Bieri*

Hitt 4-H Club
4-year, \$1,000 renewable
(potential \$4,000 award)

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust was created under the terms of the Last Will & Testament of Kathryn English. The purpose of this trust is to provide scholarship grants for high school graduates who are active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation and who desire to attend college to pursue a degree. John English, a former director of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., designated West Central's Board of Directors as trustees of the Memorial Scholarship Trust.

WCE Youth Tour delegates are set

Three area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C.

Hayley Jenkins of Chilhowee High School, Aiden McDonald of Lone Jack High School and Hannah Cochran of Crest Ridge High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition in April. They will travel with more than 100 Missouri delegates to join more than 1,800 students from across the country in our nation's capital in June.



2026 Youth Tour winners are congratulated by WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr (left) and General Manager Michael Newland (right). Students are (l-r) Hannah Cochran, Hayley Jenkins and Aiden McDonald.



2026 CYCLE winners are congratulated by WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr (left) and General Manager Michael Newland (right). Students are (l-r) Ero Garza, Alex Dyer, Addison Counts, Remington Sublette and Emelia Unruh.

Students will represent WCE at CYCLE 2026

Five area students were named winners of a trip to the 2026 Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience held in Jefferson City in June.

The 100-plus delegation will include Remington Sublette and Ero Garza of Warrensburg High School, Alex Dyer of Lafayette County C-I High School, Emelia Unruh of Odessa High School and Addison Counts of Crest Ridge High School.

2026 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholars



Lauren Roth



Cash Hale



Brenna Burns



Barrett White



Macey Greene



Lillian Carver



Malea Brewington



Kiley Thomas



Isabelle Miles



Mallory Brant



Clara Hunt



Joel Long



Izabel Lopez



Nora Knipmeyer



Chloe Fahrmeier



Blair Bergseiker



K'Lea Westover



Jordyn Beal



Kathryn Carter



Katherine Beltz



Oliver Defenbaugh

*The West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship is available to students whose parents or legal guardians are current members of the cooperative. The funds are awarded to students graduating high school and planning to attend a college, university, trade or technical school in the fall following their graduation.

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held March 26, 2026.

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative in Higginsville, Mo. at 9:30 a.m. March 26, 2026, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Clark Bredenoef. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes, Elizabeth Houtsma and Colby Dowell. Densil Allen Jr. was absent. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

IPAD VOTING AND ANNUAL MEETING

Chris Massman, vice president of AMEC Member Services gave a presentation on iPad voting and advanced voting options for the annual 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 on Feb. 26, 2026; expenditures for the month of February 2026; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the treasurer's report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the February 2026 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. She reported on interest rates, the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for March. She gave updated budget numbers. She reviewed investments. Equity by year was reported on. The cash flow statement was reviewed. New services connected were reported on. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC BUSINESS SERVICES AGREEMENT

Hoeflicker presented an Authorization for Electronic Business Services Agreement. The resolution passed.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

Hoeflicker presented on the capital credit retirement. The board approved retiring a total of \$1.75 million which includes all of 2006, \$1.4 million of 2007 and \$350,000 of 2025.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following staff reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written Operations Report. He reported on crews, mechanic and fleet, and outages and causes. He also reported on maintenance and new services.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written safety and engineering report. He reported on new meters. The Lone Jack line was discussed. Three-phase services and subdivisions were discussed. Safety & Compliance Manager Cody Brock gave a safety report. Safety meetings and crew visits were reported on. He also reported on the hours worked and miles driven with no lost time. Tornado drills were conducted at both offices. Audits were conducted by Federated and the annual PCB compliance audit was completed. Damage to a digger truck was reported on. The co-op received an award from MECIP for having the lowest mod factor



available.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, the communication department activities, presentations by the co-op at two local schools, the English Scholarship and the website transition work with Touchstone Energy. Net metered solar systems and rebates were reported on. The Vanilla Direct payment system is up and running. Questions were addressed on the new billing design.

NW BOARD REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW board report. The board meeting was held partially by Zoom due to bad weather. They reported on margins, deferred revenue, equity, the Turney plant, copper thefts and the AEI report. Taxable versus nontaxable status was discussed and a key accounts event was reported on.

NRECA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Directors and staff who attended the NRECA Annual Meeting gave reports on the speakers.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The scholarship committee reported that 21 West Central Electric Scholarships were awarded. They also reported on the English Scholarship. Amounts awarded were discussed.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

The board self-assessment was in the board packet and will be completed and returned to Kim Lewis.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the manager's report. He had provided a written report to the board prior to the meeting. Internships were reported on. Upcoming employee retirements were reported on. He also discussed new services, Lone Jack and a break in at Levasy Substation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

The AMEC presentation on voting was discussed. The board approved having AMEC at the annual meeting to do iPad voting and also for AMEC to do the advanced paper voting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:44 a.m. and was out at 12:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2026 Statement of Operations

| | This month | YTD 2026 | YTD 2025 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | \$4,223,106 | \$9,002,351 | \$8,811,979 |
| Power Bill Expense | 2,088,158 | 4,752,116 | 4,843,123 |
| Operation & Maintenance Expense | 744,543 | 1,422,249 | 1,477,576 |
| Depreciation Expense | 226,721 | 452,701 | 431,749 |
| Interest Expense | <u>137,336</u> | <u>289,107</u> | <u>275,781</u> |
| Total cost of Service (Total Expenses) | 3,196,758 | 6,916,173 | 7,028,229 |
| Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses) | 1,026,348 | 2,086,178 | 1,783,750 |
| Other Margins | <u>37,400</u> | <u>86,710</u> | <u>47,229</u> |
| TOTAL MARGINS | \$1,063,748 | \$2,172,888 | \$1,830,979 |