




West Central *Electric News*

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West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. ~ Serving our members' needs since 1939

WCE directors pass resolution supporting nuclear legislation

The board of directors representing West Central Electric Cooperative passed a resolution Dec. 30, 2010 supporting the passage of Senate Bill 50, Missouri legislation that preserves nuclear power as an option for future

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The Nuclear Option
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power supply and enables the state's electric industry to obtain funding for a potential nuclear unit in Missouri.

The passage of the bill would allow power suppliers of Missouri to pursue an early site permit from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and strategically position Missouri to take advan-

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West Central Electric Cooperative's 2010 Member Appreciation Day

MEMBER APPRECIATION...
Addison Counts, 2-year-old daughter of Buck and Heather Counts of Warrensburg enjoys the Christmas sugar cookies at WCE's annual Member Appreciation Day in December. Addison attended the open house in Higginsville with her mom, her grandparents Billy and Leslie Adams of Warrensburg, and baby sister, Kaelyn.



Congratulations to the 2010 winners!

\$25 Energy Certificates:
Wayne Lohofener, Lexington
Jim Bayless, Mayview
Connie Pulliam, Higginsville
Buckeye Acres, Warrensburg
Dwight Beydler, Oak Grove
Gina Scott, Odessa
Ed Weber, Oak Grove
Darrell Fenton, Oak Grove



Willie Wiredhand
2010 Collector Ornaments:
Hiram Wilson, Odessa
Anita Bentsen, Odessa
Roxanna Fannon, Oak Grove
Wayne Axton, Oak Grove

Save up to **50%** on your heating bill?

How many times have you heard that claim this winter -- "Save up to 50% on your heating bills with this particular model, super, heating-bill-reducing, energy-saving, miracle heater?"

Probably many. The air waves are full of advertisements touting miracle heaters that will heat an entire home for just pennies compared to the system you currently have.

"It seems that everyone has an interest and opinion about saving in our world and helping people have lower utility bills," says energy efficiency guru Doug Rye.

Rye addressed the issue of these super-efficient box-type heaters in one of his columns in an attempt to persuade co-op members not to believe everything they hear about the appliances

they see advertised in the media.

Save up to 50 % on heating bills?

"Every day I see energy tips on television, in magazines, newspapers and even direct mail pieces sent to the house. You can go to the Internet and read about energy efficiency for hours.

"Most of the stuff I see says something like this: 'Saves up to 50 percent on your heating and cooling costs.' If that were true, I would suggest you do just two of the items and save 100 percent. If only it were that easy. Actually folks, up to 50 percent means anything from 1 percent to 50 percent. If that product saved you 10 percent it would meet the claim. Simply stated, there are lots of folks out there trying to sell you something.

"It is my opinion that few, if any, of

the advertised products regarding energy savings actually will give you the advertised savings.

"This may come as a shock to you, but misleading advertising is not new," he wrote. "Please listen to me and don't believe everything you hear."

Used properly, a space heater CAN save you money

That said, there are proper ways to use a space heater that can save you energy and money. Think small and short. A general rule of thumb is that space heaters are ideal for occasional use in a small space. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources notes that if you turn your central heating system down a few degrees and supplement the heat in a small area with a space heater, you will probably save energy. If you don't

turn the thermostat down and instead simply add more heat with the electric space heater, you will likely increase your total bill.

Look for other heating fixes for large spaces used continuously. Using a space heater continuously in a large space will likely use more electricity than other fixes.

What are those other possible heating fixes?

One is to have a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician improve the ducting to the room; ducts may have come loose from the main trunk and are feeding warm air into the attic or crawl space instead of that cool room. Another fix is to add insulation and to caulk and weatherstrip. An inexpensive fix is to

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Board President Donna Matthews is certified as a Credentialed Cooperative Director... page 2

First Central Bank Payment Drop Hours:

LOBBY

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

DRIVE-THROUGH

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Sat.

DROP BOX

Available in the drive-through 24/7

**South location
1310 S. Maguire**



WCE awards thousands of dollars in scholarship money to area high school seniors each year. Find more information here...page 4

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General Manager:
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Board of Directors:
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Max Swisegood, Vice-Pres.
Paul Nolte, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Dale Jarman, Asst. Sect.
Charles Baile, Director
Clark Bredehoeft, Director
Ron Steelman, Director
Stan Rhodes, Director

Matthews achieves Credentialed Cooperative Director status

West Central Electric Cooperative Board President Donna Matthews has received accreditation as a Credentialed Cooperative Director after completing courses through the CCD Institute, a program offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Matthews attended various program sessions over the past few years. The program includes classes on director duties and liabilities, board roles and relationships, financial decision-making, understanding the electric business and strategic planning, and is designed to cover most aspects of all things a cooperative director will endure while serving on the board.

"The classes cover current topics that (cooperative directors) need to be informed of, but don't necessarily have exposure to through other means," Matthews said. "It prepares us to be in a better position to make decisions for our business."

Matthews noted that one of the most important aspects of the courses stresses the difference in running a cooperative

form of business as opposed to other forms of business.

"The principals to run our cooperative business are so unlike the principals we use to run our private businesses," she said. "In our home businesses, we want 100 percent equity, and a cooperative is not-for-profit. Sometimes it is hard to get weaned from that philosophy of doing business."

Matthews said she was pleased with the courses and the wealth of information gained, and looks forward to eventually taking the next level of courses offered.

Matthews was elected to the WCE board of directors in 1992, and serves District 3 in Johnson County.



Matthews

Save up to 50% on your heating bill?

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strategically place fans at low speed to pull warm air from the rest of the house into the cooler space.

These improvements will typically use less electricity than an electric space heater.

Planning to build? Do it right the first time

"About 25 years ago, I developed what is still known as the Doug Rye Super Energy-Efficient house. It also happened to be very "green" but that color wasn't as important in those days.

"The Doug Rye house had cellulose insulation, lots of caulking, energy-efficient windows, tight ductwork and a geothermal heat pump. When people built their houses in this manner, they could heat and cool a 1,200-square-foot house for about 50 cents per day or \$15 per month," he wrote.

Something to keep in mind...

"Each kwh of electricity equals 3,412.3 BTUs of heat, and it doesn't matter who manufactures the heater," WCE Member Services Manager Steve Moore said. "Because there is not a vent on an electric heater like there is on a gas furnace, there is no heat loss. Therefore, all electric heaters are 100 percent efficient.

Moore said people should not be fooled by the claims of extreme money savings from people selling the small box-type heaters that are so commonly being promoted today.

"Just remember that it takes the same amount of heat to make your home comfortable no matter where it comes from," he said. "It will take the same amount of heat whether it comes from an electric furnace, a gas heater, or an electric box-type heater," he said.

WCE directors pass resolution supporting nuclear legislation

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stake of possible federal incentives to promote nuclear energy.

The cooperative's action supports Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's news conference Nov. 19 announcing the state's need for state legislative changes to meet projected electricity needs for Missouri residents by 2023.

Senator Mike Kehoe and other senators have put forth bipartisan legislation, Senate Bill 50, that preserves nuclear power as a supply option and potential construction of a nuclear unit at Ameren's Callaway Plant in central Missouri. Currently Ameren has a nuclear unit already operating at that site.

Associated Electric Cooperative, West Central Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, joined a coalition

of six additional regional power suppliers including: Ameren Missouri; The Empire District Electric Co.; the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Kansas City Power & Light; and the Missouri Public Utility Alliance in support of the legislation.

According to West Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Mike Gray, the cooperative has a history of providing low-cost, safe and reliable electric service to its nearly 12,000 member-owners throughout its service territory. Given existing regulatory and economic uncertainties on coal-based power suppliers, such as Associated, West Central Electric Cooperative considers the legislation the most prudent course of action to meet future needs of its members.

In an effort to keep your contact information current, WCE asks that you notify us if you have changed phone numbers so we can update your account. --Thank you!

Don't forget these important deadlines...

Students entering the
2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest
Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 18, 2011.
Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 18, 2011.

Applications for the
2011 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship
must be postmarked no later than Feb. 25, 2011.
Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 25, 2011.

Applications for the
2011 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship
must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2011.
Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 25, 2011.

Applications for the
**2011 WCE and LSTC
Electrical Distributions System Scholarship**
MUST ARRIVE AT LINN STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE no later than April 1, 2011.

The Nuclear Option

WCE is part of a team effort to preserve Missouri's energy future



A group of Missouri electricity providers is working to preserve the option of adding an additional nuclear reactor to the Callaway Nuclear Generating Facility site in Callaway County. If completed, the plant would help diversify the cooperatives' power generating facilities and work to keep Missouri's electricity costs among the lowest in the nation.

What if someone suddenly said you could no longer eat 80 percent of the food you need to eat to fuel your body? West Central Electric Cooperative is now in a group seeking to avoid the surprise should 80 percent of what is used to produce power in Missouri — coal — become regulated to the point where it is prohibitively expensive to generate power for its members. The goal is to keep members' electric bills as low as possible. Here's what the group is doing:

Who is in this group?

It's something that doesn't happen frequently. The state's cooperatives, investor-owned and municipal utilities have joined forces in support of preserving the nuclear energy option. The group is made up of WCE's power supplier, Associated Electric Cooperative, and its state-wide organization, AMEC; the Missouri Public Utility Alliance, Empire, KCP&L, Ameren Missouri and the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission.

What does the group want?

Simply put, the group wants to explore the option of building an additional nuclear power plant on the same site as the current one. The regulatory process of building such a plant is very, very lengthy, so what the group is doing is essentially getting in line so that, if the decision is made to build, it has advanced along the process.

What are the details?

State Sen. Mike Kehoe has introduced a bill, SB 50, that would allow this group effort to work. Right now, investor-owned utilities cannot recover the costs associated with building a new plant in their rates until the plant is operational. That makes the prospect of building a nuclear plant, which carries a significant cost and takes a long time, extremely unlikely. Would you lend money to someone and not even begin getting paid back for 20 years? Sen. Kehoe's bill would provide a very limited exception so that the investor-owned partners in the group could begin getting paid back after what's called an early site permit, or ESP, is issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Consumers would not pay a dime unless and until the permit is issued.

Why nuclear?

The federal government's push for carbon legislation or regulation threatens the economic viability of Missouri's coal plants. West Central's power supplier has already spent \$1.4 billion to scrub 90 percent of air emissions from its coal plants. The EPA is moving the bulls-eye again to mandate removal of the remaining 10 percent. That would likely cost another \$1.4 billion. Is it worth it if, after all that work is done and money is spent, the EPA could move the bulls-eye yet again? Nuclear power is the only technology outside of natural gas that could meet the emerging federal standards and serve the state's baseload needs, which are expected to grow in the next 20 years.

Baseload vs. peak

When we talk about "baseload generation" or "baseload needs," we're talking about the amount of electricity needed to serve the "all-the-time" power needs of the population. As an analogy, your body needs a baseload of water to survive. Anything above that baseload is extra. In the power world, that "extra" is called the peak. The peak is the demand for electricity on especially hot or especially cold days. Keeping with the water analogy, the "peak" is when you exercise, for example. You need more water then, just as consumers need more power during the peak.



Why not wind?

Stick your head out the window. It's nearly certain the wind isn't blowing fast enough to generate the power to meet the baseload. And even if it is right now, there's a good chance that it won't be tomorrow or the next day. The point is, wind (and solar and biomass, for that matter) is an unreliable power source. Unless you are prepared to deal with random blackouts, wind cannot be used to meet baseload needs.

How much is this going to cost me?

That's the real question for West Central members. Preserving the nuclear energy options would cost you pennies a year. If and when a plant is built, it would increase costs, though how much has yet to be determined. The fact is, electric bills *are* going to go up. With the current legislative and regulatory environment, there's no getting around that. Electricity generated with nuclear energy is projected to cost you the least of any potential source in the time frame when the plant is needed. In other words, yes, your bill will be higher if a plant is built, but potentially much less than what it would be if the plant is not built.



What are the benefits?

There are many. First, construction of the plant would create jobs. A lot of jobs. And not just those working on building the plant. Other Missouri companies would make parts and material for the plant, which would ensure employment for thousands. And operating the plant would create jobs, too. This employment trickles down to housing, retail and other sectors of the economy that benefit from the employed. On top of that, by the time a new nuclear unit is operational, it is expected to be the lowest cost source of electricity. Think of it as diversifying a stock portfolio. Doing so minimizes your risk. That's what West Central wants to do for its members. An added benefit: SB 50 does not impact the already strained Missouri state budget.

What can I do?

Contact your state elected representatives and urge them to support Senate Bill 50. A House Bill will be introduced soon that matches SB 50. To find out who your elected representatives are, go to www.house.mo.gov or www.senate.mo.gov. On each homepage is a feature called "Legislator Look-up." By typing in your ZIP code, you can find your elected representatives.



Scholarship programs will offer thousands of dollars to area seniors

Each year, West Central Electric Cooperative makes an investment in the future of our communities by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to area high school graduating seniors.

Three different scholarships are available through WCE; the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship, the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship and the West Central Electric Cooperative and Linn State Technical College Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

The John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust is a renewable scholarship given to seniors active in 4-H. Scholarship amounts depend on the current status of the trust fund.

The West Central Electric Scholarship is a one-time award given to graduating seniors each year. The number of scholarships awarded depends on the availability of funds. WCE will award up to twenty \$500 scholarships each year.

The West Central Electric Cooperative and Linn State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship Program provides a two-year college scholarship to a student interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at Linn State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This scholarship provides for students a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training.

More details on all three scholarship programs can be found online at www.westcentralelectric.coop. Applications are available online, at WCE's Higginsville and Oak Grove locations, from area high school counselors, or at the Jackson, Johnson and Lafayette county University Outreach and Extension Centers.

For more information on West Central Electric Cooperative's scholarship programs, contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131.

2011 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

I. Amount of Scholarship

This year, up to 20 high school seniors will receive a \$500 West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship for use at any college, university, trade or technical school.

II. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, creed or color.
- B. The applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a current WCE member.
- C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.
- D. A minimum ACT score of 18 is required.
- E. A high school transcript must accompany the application.
- F. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question # 7 on this application.
- G. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.
- H. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED**.
- I. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.)
- J. All of the above requirements, except item G, must be met for the application to be considered

2011 West Central Electric Cooperative and Linn State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship

West Central Electric Cooperative will accept applications from students interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at Linn State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This program provides for students a two-year scholarship in a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training. General provisions of the scholarship are as follows:

I. Eligibility Requirements

- A. Applicant should reside in the West Central Electric Cooperative service area.
- B. Applicant shall be expected to participate in an interview with the cooperative general manager and/or staff representatives in April.
- C. Applicant should be enrolled as a full-time student (12 hours minimum per semester).
- D. Applicant should be a student in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 high school cumulative GPA, or GED with 260 minimum score.
- E. Applicant should meet minimum admission requirements of and be accepted in the Linn State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems program.
- F. Applicant should attend Linn State Technical College commencing during the Fall semester immediately following receipt of the application.
- G. Applicant is required to complete a summer internship at West Central Electric Cooperative, the summer semester between the first and second years of the academic program.

2011 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

I. Background

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 or were 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.

II. Amount of Scholarship

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) to a student beginning his/her freshman year in college. This student may reapply for additional grants for their next three years of study. **The amount of these grants will vary due to availability of funds.** The committee may decide to make one or more one-time scholarship awards based on merit.

III. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, creed or color.
- B. The applicant must attend a high school in West Central Electric's service area, or have a parent or legal guardian who is a current West Central Electric member.
- C. A cumulative 2.75 or better grade point average is required.
- D. A minimum ACT score of 20 is required.
- E. Participation in 4-H at the time of high school graduation is required.
- F. Two reference letters are required. No letter may come from a relative, and one letter must be from an adult involved with 4-H (for example a project leader, a 4-H youth specialist, a county livestock specialist etc.)
- G. A high school transcript must accompany the application.
- H. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question # 5 on this application.
- I. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.
- J. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.
- K. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED**.
- L. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.)
- M. All of the above requirements, except item I, must be met for an application to be considered.