




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central *Electric News*

January 2011

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



Kyle Spradley, AMEC

ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE...(Left photo) WCE's delegates Aren Dameron, left, and Allison Duncan, right, visit the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. in June 2010. (Above) Meeting delegates from across the country and trading state pins is a highlight of the trip. Allison displays her collection. **Check out page 3** for details on how you can become a delegate and travel to our nation's capital FREE!

Reminder to members...

Warrensburg service center closes Feb. 1

West Central Electric members are reminded that effective Feb. 1, the service center located inside the Hunt's Communications building on PCA Road will no longer be available. Instead, members may drop their monthly payments at First Central Bank's south location at 1310 S. Maguire in Warrensburg.

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.

WCE launches redesigned website

Members who rely on West Central Electric's website as their primary link to the cooperative are about to get a belated Christmas gift. We have updated and expanded, and you will now have easier and more convenient ways to connect with us than ever!

Applying for a rebate?

You can access our online rebate form. Print it, fill it out, send it along with a copy of your paid receipt and wait for your check to arrive in the mail.

Moving?

Access our online application to transfer service into your name. (Be sure to provide us with a current phone number so we can reach you!)

Need to locate a story you saw in Electric News?

You can pull up current and past issues of WCE's member newsletter as well as a link to *Rural Missouri* maga-

zine.

Want to pay your bill?

You can log into our website to pay your bill by credit or debit card, or by

Looking for ways to help finance your kids' college educations?

If you are a WCE member, your kids are eligible to apply for the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship. If they are active in 4-H, they can apply for the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship. All students in the area are eligible for the WCE/Linn State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship. Log on to get details, as well as an online application.

Ice Storm? Tornado?

Access our website for current information on the storm and progress of power restoration to your area.

Need to contact us?

You can contact several of our employees via email through our website.

Look us up. We're online now!

New features:

- Online Membership Application
- Online Rebate Application
- Get current outage information
- View current & past issues of *Electric News*
- Direct link to *Rural Missouri* magazine
- Link to WCE's facebook and twitter sites

Same conveniences:

- Pay bills online
- Check the status of your account
- Online scholarship applications

check. Its convenient, and it costs you nothing.

Want to find us on facebook and twitter?

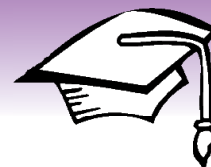
Links to both can be found on our website.



Don't forget WCE's Warrensburg Service Center closes Feb. 1. Payments can be dropped at First Central Bank, 1310 S. Maguire in Warrensburg 24/7.



Happy New Year! Celebrate with these energy efficiency resolutions for 2011...page 2



Looking for information on West Central scholarships? Find deadline information here... page 2

Headquarters:
7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
1-660-584-2131 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:
506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075
1-816-625-8211

Service Center:
Hunt Communications
801 PCA Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
1-800-491-3803

Website:
www.WestCentralElectric.coop

24-Hour Number:
1-800-491-3803

General Manager:
Mike Gray

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Energy efficiency resolutions for 2011

What can you do to reduce your electricity use and, in turn, lower your bill in 2011? Here are a few simple New Year's resolutions that can make a difference in your monthly bill:

Schedule a home energy audit – Check with your cooperative to see whether it offers a home energy audit or can recommend a provider. These inexpensive audits will identify where your house is leaking energy and will help you set priorities in fixing the problems. It's the best investment you can make when it comes to energy efficiency.

Do a nightly energy sweep – Before you turn in at night, walk through your home turning off lights and electronic gadgets and appliances that don't need to be powered 24/7. Michael Bluejay, who writes for Newsweek as Mr. Electricity, points out it takes about \$9 a year to run one compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) through the night. An incandescent light bulb costs about \$21.

Set your water heater at 120 degrees – Such a simple thing to do, but it can make a difference. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, every 10-degree reduction in water temperature can save

3 to 5 percent in energy costs. Some manufacturers set their heaters at 140 degrees, but this higher temperature can be dangerous — it could scald — and it promotes mineral buildup in pipes.

Replace every incandescent light bulb – In just a few years, you won't be able to buy some types of incandescent light bulbs. Don't be the last hold out. The quality of light output by CFLs and LEDs has dramatically improved in the past decade. You won't miss the incandescent once you've made the switch. Michael Bluejay at www.michaelbluejay.com points out that replacing 10 60-watt incandescent light bulbs with CFLs can save \$123 a year.

Insulate and weatherize – Maybe you can't afford new windows or a more efficient furnace this year. But chances are you can afford to caulk and seal, add plastic sheeting to windows and add insulation to attics, crawl spaces and exterior walls. Such improvements are often the most cost-effective way to improve energy efficiency and comfort. Energy Star estimates you can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs by sealing and insulating. You may even

qualify for free or reduced-cost weatherization through your local community action corporation.

Use power strips – Connect electronics and appliances that don't need power 24/7 to power strips that you can efficiently turn on and off. Get rid of that phantom load using electricity with no benefit to you!

Wash cold and hang to dry – About 90 percent of the cost of washing clothes is for heating the water. New effective cold-water detergents make washing clothes in cold water a snap. Mr. Electricity Michael Bluejay says you can

save on average \$150 a year. Then, if you use a clothesline instead of a dryer, add another nearly \$200 in savings.

Replace furnace and air-conditioning filters – Every month in season, replace dirty filters to improve air flow. Clogged units won't operate as efficiently.

Lower thermostat in winter and raise in summer – Set your winter thermostat at 68 degrees and summer at 78. Every degree you adjust down in winter and up in summer for an eight-hour period will reduce your fuel bill by about 1 percent.

Reminders to members...

West Central Electric would like to remind members that there is no mail service to our Oak Grove Office.

Any correspondence or payments must be mailed to WCE headquarters in Higginsville to the following address:

**West Central Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037**
(Walk-in and night-drop box services available at both locations.)

Scholarship information...

Watch the February issue of Electric News for information on the

John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship
deadline Feb. 25, 2011

West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship
deadline March 25, 2011

**West Central Electric Cooperative & Linn State Technical
College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship**
deadline April 1, 2011

Scholarship applications are available at high school counselor's offices & area WCE offices, as well as on line at
www.westcentralelectric.coop

To report an outage...

Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day,
or Higginsville at 660-584-2131.

Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

When you call, please give the following information:

- A) Your name, or the name your service is under;
- B) Your account number (Look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number. (This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Glenn Alsup, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call 202-720-5964. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The Touchstone Energy® logo signifies that a local electric cooperative is among the hundreds of consumer-owned co-ops which have joined in a nationwide marketing alliance dedicated to providing superior service at affordable rates to all customers, large and small, and the communities they

You could be here in 2011!

WCE is looking for a few good Youth Tour delegates

Walk down the halls of Crest Ridge High School, and see what catches your eye. There are composites of the graduating classes of years past. There are athletic banners galore in the gymnasium. And among the accolades racked up by some of the best and brightest students and athletes Missouri has to offer, is a plaque with 13 names on it (and room for more undoubtedly to come.) It is a list of CRHS juniors who have been fortunate enough to join the more than 40,000 Youth Tour delegates from across the nation since 1964.

Several schools in the West Central Electric service area have sent students to Washington, D.C. as part of the Rural Electric Youth Tour, and you could be a part of it!

WCE is looking for a few good Youth Tour delegates -- THREE to be exact -- to travel to Washington, D.C., all expenses paid, for the trip of a lifetime.

Who can go?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand.

Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from more than 40 states. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send approximately 80 delegates this year.

When is it?

This year's Youth Tour will be June 10-16, 2010. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Friday, June 10 for a banquet and orientation before

Contest Details:
The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE.

How do I enter?
Submit a 600-word, typed essay on ONE the following topics:

- “Taking control of my energy future -- I CAN make a difference”
- OR
- “West Central Electric -- Locally-owned. Locally-connected. That's the Difference”

For more information:
visit westcentralelectric.coop and click on “Youth Programs” then “Youth Tour” to download the information packet.

traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 12. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric.

What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives, as well as visit historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb

of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. Favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks are also on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and the Washington Cathedral.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

Who went last year?

Last year's winners were Aren Dameron of Crest Ridge High School and Allison Duncan of Warrensburg High School.

For more information, contact your high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Heather Hoflander at West Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 660-584-2131.

Don't take our word for it! Take it from those who have been there..



2006 YT delegte Laura Andreas is a senior at William Jewell College in Liberty.

“The Youth Tour is one of my favorite memories from high school. I still talk about things we did and learned while we were in DC! I am not going into anything government-related or political, but the trip definitely reinforced the importance of being involved and has caused me to continue to be interested and involved on political matters. It helped me realize that even if we are from a small town in Missouri, we still have a voice and the individuals representing us want to hear from us and care about what we think. It was great, and really put a face on politics for me. I also really enjoyed getting to meet the other students from Missouri and also the whole country that were on the same trip. It was a great glimpse of what college would be like. I still talk to Jennifer (Hayes, YT delegate from Crest Ridge). We keep each other updated on life and enjoy meeting up for lunch or coffee when we can!”

1995 YT delegate Janna Ver-Miller is a geriatric physician in a busy private practice senior health center.

“Some of the highlights of the trip were the opportunity to practice interview skills (interviewing for the national Youth Leadership Council) and the trip experience in Washington, DC. We had the opportunity to tour famous sites in DC, and the Smithsonian was incredible. The Holocaust Museum and exhibits especially impacted my life. Now I work with several patients who were survivors of the Holocaust and concentration camps, and I am amazed at what they have endured. I feel I can better identify with them since the tour of the Holocaust Museum.

“The Youth Tour opened my eyes to a more international world view (much through the Smithsonian experience) and how Americans are so abundantly blessed to have access to clean water, electricity, food and shelter. I was challenged to seek ways to share our wealth and resources with others around the world. Our family was subsequently inspired to visit various countries in Africa on mission trips, and later to adopt our 2nd son, Josiah, from Ethiopia.”



2003 YT delegte Kristin Truex is an administrative specialist for Park University working at Whiteman Air Foirce Base.

“Taking part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2003 was one of the best experiences of my life. Participating helped me learn a lot about myself, and the government locally and nationally. If I had not have written the essay, I would have never had the opportunity to learn about our government and see the things I did in our nation's capital! Writing that es-say in a way help me be more confident in myself to try new things and be more outoging. Now I work with the United States Air Force and thoroughly enjoy working with them on a daily basis.”

2002 YT delegte Jonathan Kempfe works as an IT consultant for McGladrey in Olathe, Kan.

“I would say that the Youth Tour impacted my life by giving me the opportunity to view one of the most prestigious cites in the United States and experience a lot about what goes on within our government. There's just something about being in the Nation's Capital that words cannot explain, but I think it is something that everyone should experience. Of course we were the first Tour to go after 9/11 and I will never forget driving by the Pentagon and seeing with my own eyes where it got hit that day. It was 8-9 months later and they were still working diligently on getting the building back to the way it was. Not only did we learn a lot while on the trip, it was a great way to meet new people from other small cities. I definitely had a lot more fun than I had expected before we went on the trip, and I do still keep in contact with a few delegates from the trip.”





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plus 3 mos.
FREE Showtime

Reg.Price
\$58⁹⁹

\$29⁹⁹

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FOR 12 MONTHS

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Reg.Price
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months 1-3; \$85.99 months 4-12

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Price reflected is after National Offer Rebate, Online Registration Rebate AND 24-month advanced equipment contract. Accounts with standard equipment only are under 18-month contract, and therefore the extra \$5 bill credit per month does not apply: Contract is \$66.99 for months 1-3; \$90.99 for months 4-12.

PREMIER

