



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2015

ElectricNews

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

Missouri Grassroots continues to move forward

New website, Facebook page will help spread the co-op message

On the heels of a very successful Cooperative Action Network campaign during which 1.2 million emails were sent to the EPA, the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives along with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, wants the grassroots effort to continue to move forward.

"Making sure our members are aware of the many issues affecting electric cooperatives and being able to call on them to lend their voices to these efforts

org contains the latest co-op news, videos and easy access for members to contact legislators.

"The website also gives us the abil-

Grassroots Coordinator Chris Massman said.

The database comes from the names and emails compiled during the Our Energy, Our Future (OEOF) campaign from a few years ago and the most recent Cooperative Action Network (CAN) campaign. Along with the website, members can follow on Facebook by searching MO Electric Coops, and on Twitter @MoElectricCoops.

"We want to see our grassroots expand," Massman said. "This will get us started and help us to spread our message."



is of vital importance," said Member Services Manager Steve Moore.

A new website, www.mocoopnation.org

ity to send out mass notifications when issues come up where we need our members to take action," AMEC

Stay safe when exploring the great outdoors this summer

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, West Central Electric reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels – or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items

help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts.

Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

Continued on page 4

WCE Life Support Equipment list will be updated

In an effort to better serve its members, West Central Electric Cooperative updates the Life Support Equipment List each year.

"Although we add new entries to the Life Support Equipment List as members call and request to be placed on the list, we seldom get members calling to let us know they need to be removed," Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said. "In an effort to keep the list as up-to-date as possible, we create a new list every year."

Members are asked to fill out the following form, and mail it to West Central Electric NO LATER THAN August 31, 2015 to ensure their

name appears on the new list.

The Life Support Equipment List is used by cooperative personnel in the event of a planned outage, for example, during extensive repairs or maintenance. The

Burkeybile said. "It does no good to go out and repair an individual service when the main line is down. Until the main line is repaired, there won't be any power to the individual line."

If your name needs to remain on the WCE Life Support Equipment List, You MUST fill out the following form and mail it to West Central Electric Cooperative before August 31, 2015, or your name will be removed from the current list.

Members requesting their name be placed on the Life Support Equipment List should mail the following form to the Higginsville office. If you or a family member is on oxygen, please let us know how many hours of back-up you have

available.

Please keep in mind that if we do not hear from you by August 31, 2015, your name will be removed from the current Life Support Equipment List.

list is not used as a priority list to get service turned back on in the event of an outage.

"The reason this is not a priority service list is because in the event of an outage, repairs have to be made in a certain order," Line Superintendent Randy

Request for 2015-16 Life Support Equipment List inclusion

(Please fill out all information completely.)

Name to appear on list: _____

Name on WCE account: _____

Account Number: _____ Location Number: _____ Phone Number: _____

Life support equipment requiring electricity to operate: _____

If on oxygen, how many hours back-up? _____

Please fill out all information completely and mail to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

District office:

506 N. Broadway
Oak Grove, MO 64075

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

24-Hour Number:

1-800-491-3803

General Manager:

Mike Gray

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

Board of Directors:

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

Cooperative Hopscotch

Co-ops hit the mark with consumers everywhere

Playgrounds flood with games during school recess. A great example is hopscotch. The game can be played by one child or a large group, and the rules are simple. A course is laid out, typically drawn in chalk on pavement. Blocks are numbered in the order they must be hopped in, with a home, or safe, spot at the end. Then players toss a marker into designated squares and hop through the course.

In some ways, the game reflects how cooperatives were formed. Co-ops — not-for-profit, member-owned businesses — may serve a few people or large groups. But all co-ops use the same “course,” following seven key principles. By “hopping” on each principle, co-ops provide an efficient consumer resource focused on service, not profit.

What are co-ops?

Cooperatives are owned by their members — the people who receive services from them — and are found in many industries. For example, more than 900 electric co-ops serve 42 million Americans. According to the National Cooperative Grocers Association, 30 percent of farmers’ products are marketed through more than 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives in America. Familiar brands like SunKist, Land O’Lakes, Cabot Creamery, Ocean Spray, and Sun-Maid are all co-ops formed to help farmers distribute products.

In banking, 10,000 credit unions provide financial services to 84 million members across the nation. Co-ops have also been formed to provide child care, insurance, and housing. Nearly 30,000 cooperatives operate at 73,000 locations nationally.

Guiding Principles

The cooperative movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale, England in 1844. The Rochdale model revolved around a set of guidelines drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these “Rochdale Principles” fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles hold that a cooperative

must provide:

1. Voluntary And Open Membership:

Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex, or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control: Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.

3. Members’ Economic Participation: Cooperatives provide services “at cost” and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid—margins—belongs to the members. Each member’s share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op’s services.

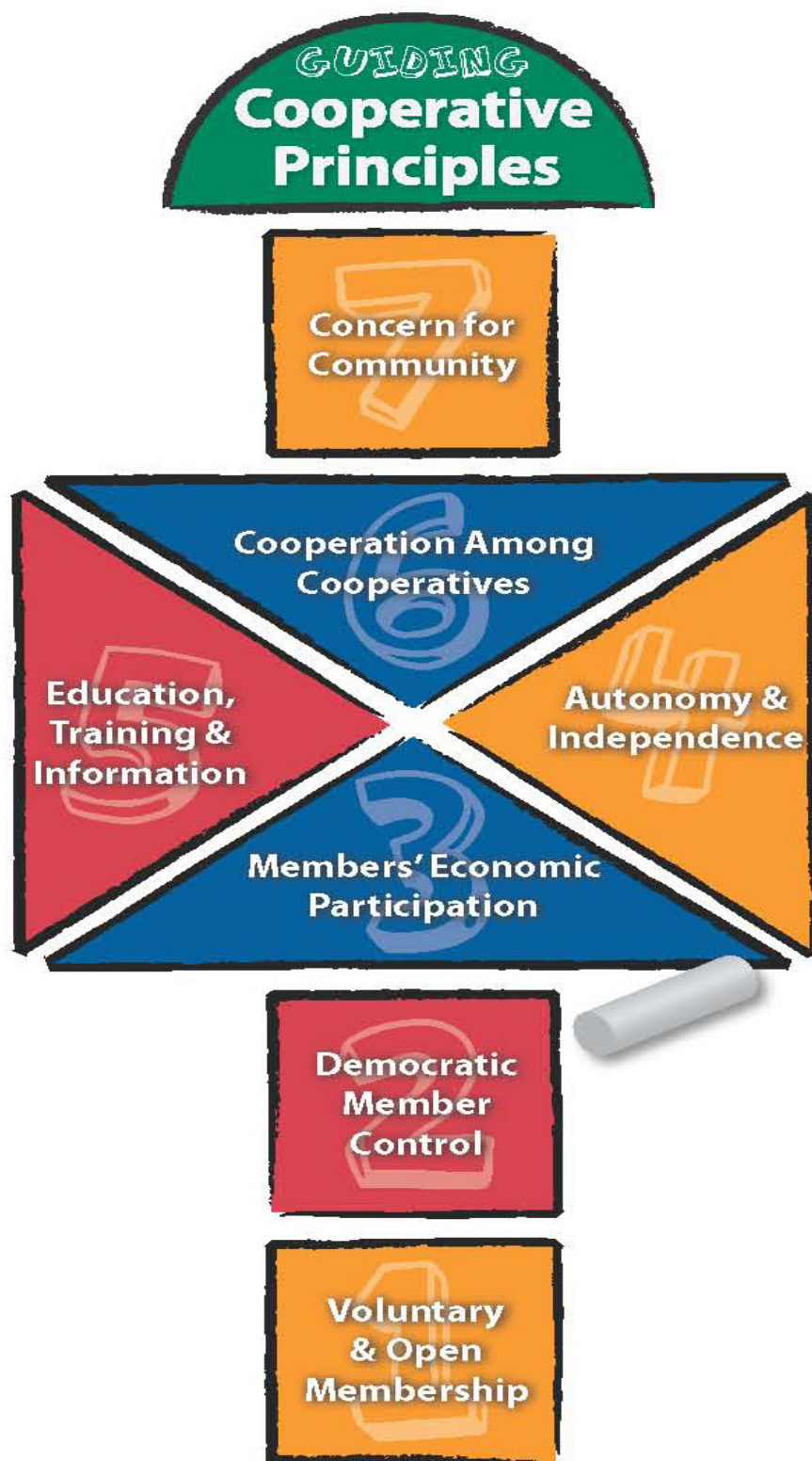
4. Autonomy And Independence: Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information: Keeping members, directors, managers, and employees up to date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern For Community: Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

To learn more about electric cooperatives, visit www.nreca.coop.



Lighten the load for air conditioners

Here are some tips to ensure your AC takes it easy this summer

Add dampers — A home improvement expert with Microsoft Network Home Advisor recommends talking with your air conditioning contractor about installing dampers to restrict the flow of cooled air to rooms you rarely use. Also talk with the contractor about whether closing doors or registers in those rooms will affect your system's efficiency.

Seal out the hot air — Weatherstrip, caulk and insulate to keep the hot air out. The same winter insulation rules apply to summer insulation. Look for "weatherization" at www.doe.gov for tips on sealing and insulating your home. Here's a short list of the most important areas to insulate:

- Ceilings and finished attic walls
- Wall to unheated garage
- Crawl spaces
- All exterior walls, including basements
- Under floors and slabs
- Cathedral ceilings
- Dormers
- Around air conditioning ducts in unconditioned spaces

Change light bulbs — Unless you have a stash of the old incandescent light bulbs, you can't even buy them anymore. Replacing them with compact fluorescent light bulbs will use 75 percent less energy, and the bulbs will last 10 times longer. Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs will save more energy and last even longer.

Close up the fireplace — Shut up the fireplace for the season by closing the damper and cleaning out the flue.

Clear attic vents — Attic fans cool hot attics by drawing in cooler outside air through attic vents (soffit and gable) and pushing hot air to the outside, explains Energy Star. However, if your attic has blocked soffit vents and is not well-sealed from the rest of the house, attic fans will suck cool conditioned air out of the house and into the attic. So make sure vents aren't blocked with insulation.

Reverse fan blades — Reverse the blades on your ceiling fan so they turn counterclockwise and blow air downward.

Repaint your house lighter — If your house has a dark-colored exterior, paint it a lighter color to reflect more of the sun's radiant energy. A dark color absorbs 70 to 80 percent of light rays.

Ventilate the attic — A dark-shingled house absorbs a lot of heat. Attic temperatures can reach 150 degrees. Some of that heat will seep downstairs into your conditioned space and make your air conditioner work harder. Proper ventilation can keep the attic temperature below 110 degrees. Check to see if your home's soffit vents and attic vents are adequate, and if not, add more. The vents and louvers also will prevent moisture buildup.

Add window fans — Window fans are another means of ventilating your house. The U.S. Department of Energy says to install them in windows facing away from the prevailing wind and exhausting hot air from your home. To cool as much of your home as possible,

tightly close windows near the fan and open windows in rooms far from the fan, preferably on the windward side of your home. Windows near cooler, shaded outdoor areas provide the best intake air.

Shade your windows — According

to the Missouri Division of Energy, sunny windows make air conditioners work two to three times harder. To keep out the sun, install drapes, blinds, exterior shades and other window coverings. Applying solar control window films to existing glass is another effective method to reduce solar light and heat.



Caring for your air conditioner

- Change filters
- Clean and shade your condensing unit, and remove dead leaves and grass that could block air flow
- Ask your heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractor about installing dampers to restrict the flow of cooled air to rooms you rarely use; discuss whether closing doors or registers in those rooms will affect your system's efficiency

Home Energy Saver offers these tips:

- Don't buy an oversized unit
- Buy an efficient model
- Install new unit properly

Tune up your air conditioner

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning professionals are busiest in the summer, so schedule a spring cleaning of your air conditioner and other cooling equipment. If your equipment is more than 10 years old or not keeping your home comfortable, be sure to have it checked. Here's some tune-up advice from the U.S. Department of Energy:

• **Change the filter in your air conditioner** — Put a clean one in for summer and change it monthly. Replacing a dirty filter can lower your unit's energy use by up to 15 percent.

• **Clean the unit's evaporator coil and condenser coil** — The evaporator coil will collect dirt over time, which reduces airflow and prevents the coil from absorbing heat. Clean the area around the condenser coil outside and hose it down if necessary. Also shade it from direct sunlight with trees, shrubs or an awning.

• **Prune shrubbery** — Remove dead leaves and grass that could block air flow to your air conditioner's condensing unit, and prune overgrown shrubbery around it for the same reason.

• **Comb coil fins** — The aluminum fins on the evaporator and condenser coils can be easily bent. Use a "fin comb" to comb them back into shape so they don't block air flow.

• **Clean condensate drains** — Occasionally pass a stiff wire through the unit's drain channels so it properly reduces humidity.

• **Inspect window seals** — On window units, inspect the seal between the unit and the window frame to ensure it makes contact with the unit's metal case. Moisture can damage the seal and allow cool air to escape.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen, Jr. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Densil Allen, Jr., Max Swisegood, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Sandra Streit, Jeremy Ahmann and Stan Rhodes and Richard Strobel. Director Clark Bredehoeft was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, and Administrative Assistant Kim Lewis.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The unapproved minutes of the regular meeting of the board of directors held March 26, 2015 were approved.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH

An itemized list of expenditures for March was presented to the board, and the payment of the bills was ratified.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following March 2015 reports were approved: Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement including the Financial Statistical Report with month and budget comparisons and statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, and KWH sales; Treasurer's Report and the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report.

SAFETY REPORT

Gray reported no lost time accidents during the month.

MEMBERSHIPS

The applications submitted for membership in the cooperative were accepted and approved. Directors reviewed a list of requests for termination of membership in the cooperative which, along with their requests that their billings be deducted from their deposits and the remainder, if any, be refunded to them, were accepted and approved.

AMEC REPORT

Gray reported his attendance at the AMEC meeting with highlights including a legislative update, the announcement of NW General Manager Don McQuitty to be inducted into the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives Hall of Fame and the fish fry to be held at the Capitol.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported on their attendance at the N.W. meeting. Highlights included the election of officers on the NW Board and approval of line construction.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman announced that 23 \$650 recipients were chosen for the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship. Gray reported that he had conducted two interviews for the WCE/State Technical College scholarship and recommended scholarships be awarded to both applicants.

CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS

Directors approved retiring 100% of 1995 and 50% of 1996 capital credits amounting to \$1,411,706.78.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

The board decided to plan the 2015 annual meeting the same as 2014 with the same menu, \$25 energy certificates to members attending and to have Andereck Evans Law Firm handle the voting process.

BYLAW DISCUSSION

Changes to the cooperative's bylaws were approved as amendments to be voted on at the annual meeting. A complete description of bylaw amendments and changes will be published in the Official Notice of Annual Meeting which will be in the August pages of Electric News.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Directors approved the 2015 Nominating Committee which was set to meet May 14. Members nominated to serve include: Walter Hutcherson, Adam Heater, Dennis Knipmeyer, Dana Sander, Srah Willard, Gary Bell, Verna Jenkins, Jerry Phoenix and Tim Evert.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month which included personnel updates, Lineman Appreciation Day, Missouri State Fair Foundation, Youth Tour results, board shirts and policy book updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Strobel reported on highlights of the NRECA Directors' Conference.

MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2015

| | This month | YTD 2015 | YTD 2014 |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Revenue | 2,305,143 | 7,925,365 | 8,440,912 |
| Power Bill Expense | 1,373,228 | 4,494,645 | 4,618,814 |
| Operation & Maint. Expense | 255,980 | 843,619 | 688,004 |
| Depreciation Expense | 157,855 | 470,403 | 452,642 |
| Interest Expense | 126,519 | 338,384 | 288,014 |
| Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense) | 1,913,582 | 6,147,051 | 6,047,474 |
| Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses) | 106,704 | 969,114 | 1,650,918 |
| Other Margins | 19,465 | 63,781 | 16,958 |
| TOTAL MARGINS | 126,169 | 1,032,895 | 1,667,876 |

Sullins joins WCE in apprentice role

West Cetnral Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Johnathon Sullins.

Sullins began work at the cooperative June 1 as an apprentice lineman out of the Higginsville office. He will work with line crews and help with the brush and spraying crew.

A graduate of Metropolitan Metropolitan Community College, Sullins said he looks forward to the opportunity of working with the electric cooperative in his chosen field.

"I'm glad to be starting a career and furthering my education about line work," he said.

Sullins lives in Holden with his girlfriend and daughter, Jaylee, who is 1.



Sullins

Watch your August issue of *Electric News* for complete annual meeting coverage including candidate profiles and bylaw changes up for consideration.

Stay safe exploring the great outdoors this summer

From page 1

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to contact Missouri One-Call at 1-800-DIG-RITE first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines – always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote controlled-airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

