



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

May 2015

# ElectricNews

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

## Put safety first this month and all year

It's May – and West Central Electric is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and 1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home.

### IN THE KITCHEN

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens

and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

### LIGHT THE WAY TO SAFETY

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.



- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to

provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide

### BE PREPARED

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least

once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.

- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Due to summer construction at the University of Central Missouri, this year's WCE annual meeting will be held **Aug. 21, 2015** at the UCM Multipurpose Building.

Your official notice of the annual meeting, which will include candidate profiles, any proposed bylaw changes and other pertinent meeting information, will be included in the **August** edition of *Electric News*.

Registration slips will be included in the bills you will receive at the end of July or the beginning of August depending on your billing cycle.



Bertz

When the English family founded the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship, they were looking for someone specific: an active 4-Her who is not only a good student, but also "displays character, works diligently and faithfully, and is an active and good citizen and constructive member of society." The English Scholarship Committee found that someone, and much more, in 2015 winner, Molly Bertz of Mayview.

Following an application and interview process, Bertz was named the

## Molly Bertz is 2015 English Scholar

Dowell, Lee, Burkeybile, Varner and Wodrich also receive funds from trust

2015 John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship winner, and will receive a four-year, renewable scholarship worth a potential \$4,000.

Even with a packed schedule including a variety of school and community activities, Bertz maintains grades that keep her at the very top of her class, and remains active in her 4-H club, regarding it as an important part of her life.

"I have a passion for 4-H and its members," she said. "4-H has and continues to give me opportunities for success and the achievement of my goals. My family has a long history of

involvement in the 4-H organization and continues to support and participate in the work 4-H is doing in our community and others."

Bertz said the biggest reward of her involvement in 4-H will be watching her own children grow through the organization.

Bertz is the daughter of Harold and Melisa Bertz. She attends Lafayette County C-I High School and is a 9-year member of 40-ville 4-H Club where she has held several offices and completed numerous projects. She plans to attend Kansas State University to study agriculture journalism and animal science.

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship was made possible by former West Central Electric Cooperative board member John English and his wife, Kathryn, who created the trust to assist graduating 4-H members with their educational expenses.

The committee also chose to award two 2-year, \$1,000 renewable scholarships to Anna Lee of Oak Grove High School and Colby Dowell of Odessa High School, as well as three one-time \$750 scholarships to Kristen Burkeybile of Lafayette County C-I

Continued on page 2



Dowell



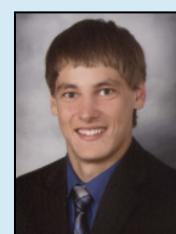
Lee



Burkeybile



Varner



Wodrich

#### 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

*Bertz is 2015 English Scholar...*

## Dowell, Lee, Burkeybile, Varner and Wodrich also receive funds from trust

### From page 1

High School, Danielle Varner of Odessa High School and Tanner Wodrich of Santa Fe High School.

### ANNA LEE

Lee has been a member of the Valley 4-H Explorers for nine years. She has been accepted to Duke University where she will study biology.

Lee has spent several years representing her local 4-H Club and serving Jackson County as a member and officer of the Jackson County 4-H Council as well as Jackson County 4-H queen. Among her favorite activities are the community service projects in which her club is involved.

She is the daughter of Robert and Susan Lee.

### COLBY DOWELL

Dowell is a 10-year member of 40-ville 4-H Club. He will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia and study agriculture business.

Starting out as a Clover Kid and working up to president of the Lafayette County 4-H Council, Dowell has experienced the full spectrum of what 4-H has to offer.

"As an active 4-H member for over 10 years, I owe much of who I am to 4-H and the people who volunteer and support the program," he said. "4-H has allowed me to learn the impact I can make beyond my immediate family."

Dowell is the son of Randall and Cinda Dowell.

### KRISTEN BURKEYBILE

Burkeybile is a six-year member of Hazel Dell 4-H Club. She will begin to fulfill her life-long dream of becoming a

cosmetologist when she enters House of Heavilin Beauty College in the fall.

Burkeybile counts working as a camp counselor and food pantry service projects as her most memorable 4-H experiences.

"Hunger is one of the most devastating things to witness in your own small-town community," she said. "I want to make a difference."

She is the daughter of Randy and Kim Burkeybile.

### DANIELLE VARNER

Varner has been a member of Mighty-Mo and 40-ville 4-H clubs for 14 years. She will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia in the fall and study animal science.

She has participated in many activities and held various offices throughout her years in 4-H, and says showing cattle and cooking in Foods are her favorites.

"I love being able to work with my show cattle and learn more about the Angus breed," she said. "In cooking, I enjoyed creating new cookies and treats."

She is the daughter of Steve and Linda Varner.

### TANNER WODRICH

An 11-year member of Alma 4-H Club, Wodrich plans to attend the University of Central Missouri and study wildlife biology.

Wodrich's projects included wood-working, art and hams.

"My art work is something I am very proud to have taken to the Lafayette County Fair," he said. "Every year I exhibited at the county fair, I was able to earn a Missouri State Fair ribbon."

Wodrich is the son of Darren and Sheryl Wodrich.

## 2015 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2015 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on Thursday, May 14, 2015 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 21, 2015 in Warrensburg.

### District I

Walter Hutcherson  
39607 E. Fricke Rd.  
Oak Grove, MO 64075  
816-625-3837

Adam Heater  
8968 Powell Rd.  
Odessa, MO 64076  
816-529-6594

### District II

Dennis Knipmeyer  
17905 Long Grove Rd.  
Higginsville, MO 64037  
660-584-2741

Dana Sander  
32376 King Rd.  
Alma, MO 64001  
660-674-2654

### District V

Tim Evert  
274 NW 800 Rd.  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
660-909-2024

### District III

Sara Willard  
491 NW 900 Rd.  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
660-747-7469

Gary Bell  
1048 NE 121 Rd.  
Warrensburg, MO 64093  
660-747-9285

### District IV

Verna Jenkins  
1151 SW 1050 Rd.  
Holden, MO 64040  
816-732-6946

Jerry Phoenix  
707 NW 100 Rd.  
Centerview, MO 64019  
660-656-9527

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*\*Terms will expire for District 1 Director Jeremy Ahmann, District 2 Director Clark Bredehoeft and District 4 Director Dale Jarman. Members will elect ONE director each from District 1, District 2 and District 4.*

## Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member who continuously uses cooperative energy and service at his/her permanent, primary place or residence; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) is the incumbent of or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 per annum is paid. Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of directors shall remove such director from office.

(D) Has been an employee of the cooperative within the last three (3) years. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help save on energy costs, especially with warm weather now approaching. Check to ensure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and the inside wall fitting is not kinked or clogged. Inspect the outside vent to make sure it opens and closes. Always clean the lint trap before use.



# Youth Tour 2015 RURAL ELECTRIC



Youth Tour Winner

*Britnee Morris*



Youth Tour Winner

*Daphanie Parks*



Youth Tour Winner

*Kylie Limback*

## Area students prepare for 'trip of a lifetime'

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

Britnee Morris and Daphanie Parks of Chilhowee High School, and Kylie Limback of Santa Fe High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 12-18 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2015 competition participated in the second round April 9 at West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Higginsville where they delivered their essays during the oral competition. The top three winners received the trips to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

West Central's delegates, their teachers and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 12 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives, and the Supreme Court. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 80-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 13. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Cathedral, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River, and tour the Smithsonian Museums.

Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by all approximately 1,500 delegates from 44 states, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their senators and representatives.

A total of 66 entries were received from five different schools.

## Delegates get psyched for CYCLE!

Local students Kimber LaGore, Courtney Bishop and MacKenzie Phillips, all of Santa Fe High School, will attend the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in Jefferson City July 15-17.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top cooperative youth conference in the nation. During the conference, students will spend a day at the Missouri State Capitol Building, learn about cooperatives, participate in leadership and team-building activities, and hear top-notch speakers. Past speakers at CYCLE have included Darrell Scott, whose daughter, Rachel, was killed in the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999 and Mike Schlappi, wheelchair basketball world champion and paralympic medalist whose message is "If you can't stand up -- stand out." Students will also have the opportunity to write and debate their own bills on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives.



CYCLE WINNERS...Three students will represent West Central Electric at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in July. (L-r) Kimber LaGore, Courtney Bishop and MacKenzie Phillips, all of Santa Fe High School, are congratulated by WCE Board President Densil Allen, Jr.

## From the Boardroom...

Regular February meeting of the Board of Directors held March 3, 2015  
(Meeting was postponed from Feb. 26 to March 3 because of a conflict with the NRECA Annual Meeting.)

The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Densil Allen, Sandra Streit, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes and Robert Simmons. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and General Counsel Shawn Battagler.

### 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 Jan. 23, 2015, were approved.

### REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY

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

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following January 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. He also discussed the AMEC worker's compensation audit.

### 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

Bredehoeft and Gray reported on their attendance at the AMEC meeting. Highlights of the meeting included speakers and presentations, MECIP report, AECI report including ruling on fly ash, legislative report, PSC hearings report, Barry Hart's report, Training and Development Committee report and Solar Advisory Committee report.

### N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Swisegood and Gray reported on their attendance at the N.W. meeting. Highlights included operations and financials of N.W., policy review and resolutions addressed at the meeting.

### NRECA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Board members who attended the NRECA Annual Meeting reported on the topics covered and resolutions addressed during the meeting.

### BAD DEBT WRITE-OFF FROM 2012

The write-off of bad debt from 2012 was approved as uncollectible. The cooperative will continue to pursue reasonable collection efforts.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month. He reported on the following: issues regarding the status of refinancing, local students accepted to State Technical College's Electrical Distribution Systems Program, NW's preliminary plans for the annual meeting and strategic planning discussions.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

The board resolved to work with strategic planning professional Daniel Cash of the University of Missouri Extension to direct the strategic planning process.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Bylaw Committee gave their report. Directors discussed proposals for bylaw amendments relating to improved voting options. Legal counsel was directed to prepare ballot language based upon the recommendations of the committee.

### NEW BUSINESS

Simmons discussed information regarding deceased members' unpaid bills and collection letters that go out in response to returned checks. No action was taken.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Directors adjourned into executive session, followed by reconvening to the regular meeting.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

A strategic planning discussion was scheduled for the next regular meeting.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

#### FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • January 2015

	This month	YTD 2015	YTD 2014
Revenue	2,861,473	2,861,473	3,095,907
Power Bill Expense	1,481,930	1,481,930	1,671,945
Operation & Maint. Expense	467,758	467,758	462,027
Depreciation Expense	155,547	155,547	150,316
Interest Expense	109,073	109,073	110,572
Total cost of Srv. (Total Expense)	2,214,255	2,214,255	2,394,785
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	647,218	647,218	701,122
Other Margins	5,010	5,010	17,114
TOTAL MARGINS	652,228	652,228	718,236

# What's up? Lots in the legislation department

## Urge Congress to pass coal ash legislation

Make Your Voice Heard! Please urge your representative to support legislation to codify EPA's decision that coal byproducts are nonhazardous. This may be the last chance for electric cooperatives to work with lawmakers on a sensible long-term solution. The alternative would be a continued cycle of uncertainty and threats to our industry.

This proposed legislation will provide a framework for oversight and enforcement of the new coal ash standards that is consistent with other federal environmental regulatory programs. The bipartisan legislation properly balances the interest of public health and the need of electric cooperatives to ensure the delivery of affordable and reliable electricity. Make your voice heard today and urge your Representative to support this common sense legislation.



[www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop)

## Tell Congress: Protect our most vulnerable citizens, by supporting LIHEAP funding

We need your help! As Congress considers the budget for Fiscal Year 2016, we need your help to ensure that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is sufficiently funded. In recent years, funding for LIHEAP has been cut by over \$1.5 billion dollars! These cuts mean that many of our nation's most vulnerable citizens have not been able to get the short-term aid they need to ensure that they can pay their energy bills during the cold winters and hot summers.

We are asking you to send a letter to your Members of Congress asking them to support a funding level of at least \$4.7 billion. This funding provides access to affordable home energy for the most vulnerable households. Thanks for your help.

The 114th Congress kicked off in January and 58 new members of the House and 13 new Senators were sworn in. With new faces come new opportunities to educate and remind Congress about the importance of affordable and reliable electricity. In the coming months, Congress will likely consider comprehensive energy legislation. Join us and contact your members of Congress and urge them to support policies that keep your lights on.

You can help us take action on both of these issues by visiting [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) and letting your voice be heard. It's easy, and it works! There are power in numbers.