



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

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ElectricNews

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

Use caution near cooperative equipment

As you find yourself spending time outdoors wrapping up the summer, West Central Electric reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

Substations and power lines carry extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous—or even deadly.

Never climb trees near power lines. If you make contact with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could

become the path of electricity from the line to the ground. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it—no matter how furry and cute! Call WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or 911 for assistance.

These days, we are seeing more remote-controlled toys, like drones and airplanes, which can be a great way to have fun outdoors. But these gadgets also bring new safety concerns. Remote-

controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment.

Remember these safety tips when flying a remote-controlled toy:

- Keep a safe distance from electrical equipment when you fly. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, many members of your community could be left without electricity.

- Keep the remote-controlled toy in

sight at all times.

- Avoid flying if weather conditions are unfavorable. High winds could cause you to lose control of the remote-controlled toy.

Your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety so that you and others can enjoy plenty of summer days filled with fun! Visit www.westcentralelectric.coop or our Facebook page for more electrical safety tips.

Bertz is YLC delegate

Odessa High School senior will work with Missouri and national cooperatives throughout coming year

Each year on the Rural Electric Youth Tour, cooperative delegates are given the opportunity to be selected for the prestigious NRECA Youth Leadership Council. One student from each state is selected to represent their state during the coming year. At the Missouri Youth Tour Banquet in June, Mayview resident Alli Bertz was named Missouri's 2016 YLC representative.

Throughout their term, YLC representatives will attend cooperative events around the state and country learning about and working with the nation's cooperative network. The YLC representatives travel back to Washington, D.C. for a leadership workshop focusing on the electric cooperative industry, as well as attend their cooperatives' annual meeting, their statewide meeting and the NRECA annual meeting. Members of the YLC play an important role during NRECA's Annual Meeting. Not only are the YLC members recognized on stage, but they also have a hands-on experience with virtually every facet of the meeting including the resolutions process and helping members communicate with their legislators.

"I'm so excited! I can't believe it!" an ecstatic Bertz reacted upon finding out she had been chosen.

Delegates complete an application

process from which six finalists are named. YLC finalists are interviewed during the Youth Tour, and representatives are introduced during the national Youth Day program in Washington, D.C.

"I couldn't be more blessed, honored and excited to take part in this incredible opportunity," Bertz said. "I look forward to meeting so many passionate people and connecting with cooperative leaders."

Bertz said she pledges to represent Missouri and its youth to the best of her ability.

Missouri Youth Tour coordinator Mike Marsch said YLC leaders not only give back, but they also gain invaluable experiences along the way.

"Youth Leadership Council members leave more poised, confident and a better developed leader with a strong determination to improve their communities and make their country a better place," he said. "Further, they leave having built life-long friendships with other student leaders from across the country."

Although West Central Electric has had several finalists over the years, Alli is the first Youth Tour delegate to be chosen for this national position. She is the daughter of WCE members Greg and Kim Bertz.



WCE Youth Tour delegate Alli Bertz speaks at the 2016 Youth Day Program during the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. One of the evening's events is to introduce the new NRECA Youth Leadership Council. Bertz will represent WCE and Missouri throughout the coming year at local, state and national cooperative events. (Additional coverage of the 2016 Youth Tour on page 2)

West Central Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe holiday!

Missouri's Youth Tour delegation tops 100 for 'trip of a lifetime'

What makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities is that "giving something back to the community" is part of their business plan. Why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington, D.C.? Because it is important to learn about the political process to interact with your government. Students walk away from this week a better leader and with a sense that they can make a difference.

"Youth Tour allowed students from every background to come together and unite in the very place that our nation is united," said 2016 WCE delegate Abby Bertz. "There, we were able to seek a connection to our history books and see first-hand the sacrifice, the honor and refuge that make our country what it stands to be today."

In June, Abby, who will be a senior at Odessa High School this fall, joined fellow WCE delegates Alli Bertz of Odessa High School and Chance Riddle of Warrensburg High School, and 100 other youth from across Missouri on the national Rural Electric Youth Tour. The tour brought together more than 1,600 high school students from across the nation.

Time and again, delegates both past and present choose the same words to describe their experience, calling Youth Tour "the trip of a lifetime," and basking in the experiences and friendships they gained while in our nation's capital. "A lot of groups say that the experience they offer is a 'trip of a lifetime,' which it rarely is. The Youth Tour wasn't just an adventure that gave me knowledge, skills, and memories that I will treasure for the rest of my life; it also gave me friendships that will last forever," Riddle said. "The people I met became my family, and the minute I left at the end of that week, I realized that I had just said goodbye to the best group of kids I'd ever met. I am eternally thankful to my electric co-op for giving me an opportunity to take this true trip of a lifetime."

More than 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America

have participated in this unique program, with participants going on to become doctors, teachers, aircraft designers and even top legislators in the U.S. Senate. Delegates also return with a new appreciation of America and her history.

"Different places have different elements that make them special. For Washington, D.C., they come in multitudes," said Alli Bertz. "A textbook, website or history lesson could tell you the significance of a destination, but it isn't until you experience that place with an incredible group of individuals, like those chosen to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour, that that place becomes truly special."

WCE has sent 58 area students to our nation's capital since reestablishing the Youth Tour program at the cooperative in 1992.



WCE Youth Tour delegates Abby Bertz (left) and Alli Bertz (right) taking in all of the sights and sounds of our nation's capital. Both were named finalists for the prestigious NRECA Youth Leadership Council. During the 2016 Youth Tour, Alli was named representative for the state of Missouri.

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**—Chance Riddle
2016 YT Delegate**

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**—Alli Bertz
2016 YT Delegate**



WCE delegate Chance Riddle and fellow delegates pause for a lunch break during a full day of touring in Washington, D.C.



WCE delegates Alli Bertz (center) and Abby Bertz (center right) and fellow Youth Tour delegates visit the United States Air Force Memorial.

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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

Staking engineers are working in Oak Grove area

WCE staking engineers will be out working in the following areas preparing for a line conversion:

- Pink Hill Rd. from Ketterman Rd. to Fields Rd.;
- Old Pink Hill Rd. from Ketterman Rd. to Pink Hill Rd.;
- Along Ketterman Rd. from Pink Hill Rd. to Old Pink Hill Rd.

There may be some brief outages during this time. Work will be ongoing thorough late summer. Members with questions may contact the Higginsville office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Faris wins \$10,000 Glenn English Scholarship

Youth Tour participation
opens door for another area
student to excel, achieve

West Central Electric Cooperative and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) have announced that 2013 Youth Tour delegate Nora Faris of Concordia has won a \$10,000 scholarship from the Glenn English Cooperative Leadership Foundation, the highest honor available from this scholarship program created by the former NRECA CEO. This award is one of five awards for students who have shown a commitment to the Seven Cooperative Principles.

"Congratulations to Nora Faris for winning top honors and \$10,000 from the Glenn English scholarship fund. At NRECA, we believe students who study and absorb the cooperative principles – democratic governance, cooperation, independence and autonomy, for example – will be able to apply that knowledge in any career they pursue," said Jeffrey Connor, NRECA interim CEO.

WCE General Manager Mike Gray praised the Youth Tour and the cooperatives' fierce loyalty to the Seven Cooperative Principles through these types of programs.

"Cooperatives are tirelessly working to make our local communities a better place through the cooperative principles of Education, Training and Information as well as Concern for Community," he said. "Programs such as the Youth Tour and providing scholarships is a direct investment in the future of our cooperatives because we are investing in the very individuals who, in not so many years, will be making the decisions that affect our cooperatives and our members."

"I am pleased to congratulate Nora on this prestigious award," Gray said. "She is very deserving."

"I'm thankful for the opportunity to represent West Central as the recipient of the NRECA Glenn English Memorial Scholarship," Faris said. "NRECA recognizes the benefit of investing in bright young minds, and I look forward to repaying that investment by achieving brighter solutions in public policy for rural communities across America."

All winning applicants participated in NRECA's Youth Tour, are full-time students and have completed one year of study at their respective institutions.



Past WCE Youth Tour delegate Nora Faris of Concordia has been named the winner of a \$10,000 scholarship from the NRECA Glenn English Scholarship Program. Entsih was a former CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Full eligibility details are available on NRECA.coop.

NRECA evaluated applicants on their GPA, internships, extra-curricular activities, leadership and involvement in cooperative programs.

A tireless consumer advocate and former CEO of NRECA, Glenn English spent his career championing the cooperative business model and fighting to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Cooperatives around the world operate according to a core set of principles. The following seven principles, along with the cooperative purpose of improving quality of life for their members, make electric cooperatives different from other electric utilities:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control

- Members' economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Faris spent the summer of 2016 living and working in Washington, D.C. for a public affairs agency that "advances positive and regulatory policy for agribusiness clients," she said.

She is a sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia studying broadcast journalism and agricultural economics.

REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS Regarding Capital Credits...

• 2016 capital credits will appear as credits on your July billing statement.

• If a member has multiple accounts, the credits will be applied to the largest balance first (based on the previous month) then the next account until fully applied. If there are no current balances on the account, the credit will be applied to the primary account (that holds the main membership).

• If a member has multiple accounts, and would like the credit applied to a different account than the one determined by the cooperative, members may call the office and request a transfer to the account of their choice.

• Members who purchased electricity from the cooperative in 1996 or 1997 may receive capital credits. If you do not see a credit on your account, and feel you should have, you may contact Sandy Starke at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

• Inactive, non-members' checks will be mailed July 11, 2016.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 28, 2016

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, Richard Strobel, Jeremy Ahmann, Dale Jarman, Sandra Streit and Stan Rhodes. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, and Kim Lewis, administrative assistant..

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 24, 2016 were approved.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES FOR APRIL

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 2016 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 presented the safety report which was approved.

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 reported his attendance at the AMEC meeting. Highlights included an update on the initiative petition, and NRECA's Bolivia project.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported their attendance at the recent board meeting and shared highlights including a review of the NW Annual Meeting and election of offices as well as the introduction of new AECl Manager David Tudor.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman and Simmons reported on the scholarships awarded.

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION PLAN

The Strategic Plan Action Plan was discussed and accepted.

AECI SOLAR STRATEGIES SURVEY

Gray distributed the survey and each director completed it. Results will be reported at a future meeting.

FACILITIES DISCUSSION

Gray reported on a member who had requested a copy of the cooperative's facilities study. The board approved providing the study for the member to review. Directors voted to continue to utilize the two locations at Higginsville and Oak Grove.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month. He reported on the following: attorney availability for meetings, NRECA Director's Survey, annual meeting, commercial rate changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The board entered into executive session for the discussion of personnel, litigation and contractor relationship. Following the closed session, the board returned to open session. The board resolved to appoint cooperative counsel Rod Widger to serve as parliamentarian for the 2014 annual meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • March 2016			
	This month	YTD 2016	YTD 2015
Revenue	1,961,695	7,031,926	7,872,826
Power Bill Expense	1,263,446	4,353,366	4,494,645
Opertion & Maint. Expense	180,480	563,805	804,851
Depreciation Expense	165,048	492,724	470,403
Interest Expense	132,340	309,899	337,135
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	1,741,314	5,719,794	6,107,034
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(76,982)	509,122	957,841
Other Margins	47,280	63,160	63,782
TOTAL MARGINS	(29,702)	572,282	1,021,623

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