



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

RURAL
MISSOURI

July 2016

Electric News

Special Annual Meeting Issue!

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

Business Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

West Central Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting Aug. 5, 2016
UCM Multipurpose Building,
Warrensburg, MO.

5:00 p.m.

- ♦Registration begins. All registered members will receive a \$25 energy credit. Must be present to receive.
- ♦Join us for a fun, old-fashioned co-op barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, chips and cookies, tea & lemonade! Meals will be served to the first 1,300 members and guests in attendance.
- ♦Informational booths and displays open at east end of Multi.

6:50 p.m.

- ♦Abby Bertz, Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C.

7:00 p.m.

- ♦Business Meeting -- approval of minutes (*page 4 of this issue*), reports of business and election of directors (*profiles on page 3*).



Standing Strong
with our members.

Working together produces results

Also...

- ♦Drawings for prizes, including a **32" Vizio E Series TV** donated by NW Electric and several \$25 and \$50 energy certificates
- ♦Drawing for grand-prize: **one month FREE electricity!** (*Residential account only, applies to the bill due in September*)
- ♦Drawings for kids' prizes including a **girl's bike** and a **boy's bike with helmets**
- ♦Kids' Safety Area with giveaways, safety demonstrations, and Rural Missouri's Buddy Bear -- Bring your camera to take pictures with Buddy!
- ♦Swimming for the kids 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Multipurpose Building indoor pool
- ♦Health screenings from Johnson County Community

Continued on page 2

One of the perks of being a part of an electric cooperative is knowing that we are always **standing strong with our members.**

You can trust us to make sure your voices are heard. Just recently cooperative leaders from across the country gathered in our nation's capital to meet with elected officials on issues like climate change, energy efficiency and other topics of importance to rural communities. We have seen evidence of power in numbers when we call on you through our Grassroots network to respond with us to an issue that could affect your daily lives.

You can trust us to stand with you in keeping our communities strong. We all live here, so we feel strongly about working together to make our communities something we can be proud of. We join you in supporting organizations like 4-H and FFA as well as community events, senior centers and youth activities.

You can trust us to take care of our environment. We know you are concerned with environmental issues and their impact on our earth -- so are we. We are proud to be part of an organization that has spent more than \$1 billion since 1994 to improve air

quality and care for our land and water resources.

We work to keep electric rates as low as possible for all of us. We are right there with you in your desire to have the most reliable electricity at the lowest-possible cost.

We also join you in protecting our future. America's electric cooperatives have launched a campaign called "Co-ops Vote" to help get out the vote and bring issues that are important to cooperatives to the forefront. The campaign aims to boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives to ensure our voices are heard.

With all of these issues, there is still work to do; and we can do it, if we stand strong together.

RM mailing label

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

West Central Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting Aug. 5, 2016

From page 1**Health Services**

- ♦Meet the WCE linemen and learn more about what they do.
- ♦Glaucoma & macular degen-

eration screenings by the Missouri
Lions Foundation

- ♦West Central Services booth -- where you can get more information about the Exede satellite service

provided by your electric coopera-
tive

- ♦Take Control and Save booth. This cooperative energy-efficiency program can show you how to make

the most of your energy dollars by
taking control of your electricity
use.

See you Aug. 5 in Warrensburg!

MAIL-IN BALLOT PROCEDURES

Members who are unable to attend the 77th annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 5, may still participate in the board of directors election by mail-in ballot.

- You must submit a request for a voting packet either by calling the office and requesting a packet to be sent to you, or by mailing in the form that was included with your June bills.

- All requested ballots will be mailed to members after July 11, 2016.

- Once you receive your voting packet, you may cast your vote and follow the instructions to send the ballots to the cooperative's attorney.

- Marked ballots must arrive **NO LATER THAN Aug. 4, 2016** at the cooperative attorney's office in order to have the votes included in the count.

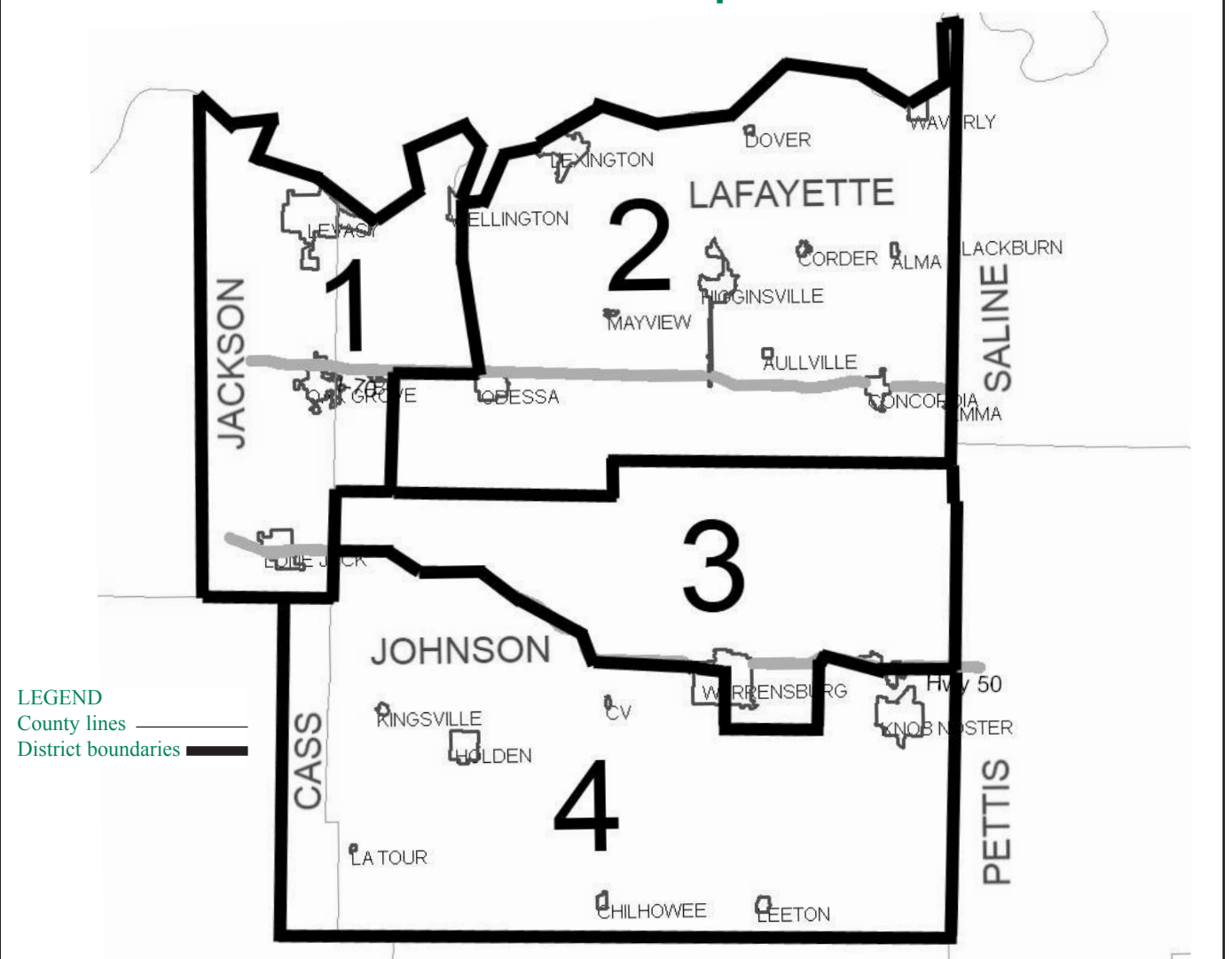
- Members who are able to attend the meeting may still vote in person at the meeting and do not have to submit a mail-in ballot.

Questions regarding the mail-in voting procedures may be directed to Office Manager Sandy Starke at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

**NOMINATING
COMMITTEE MEETS...**

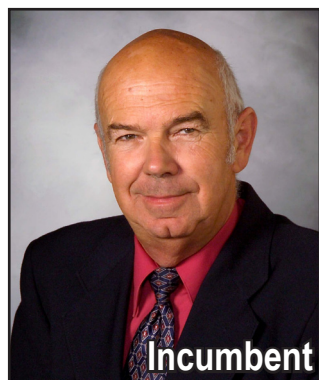
The West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met in May to nominate candidates for the 2016 board of directors election. The committee consists of the following active WCE members: Front row, (l-r): Jerry Phoenix, Tim Evert, Sarah Willard and Verna Jenkins. Back row (l-r): Gary Bell, Paul Nolte, Dennis Knipmeyer, Walter Hutcherson and Adam Heater.

District Map



West Central Electric Cooperative • 2016 Board of Directors Candidates

District 1



Max Swisegood
Oak Grove, Mo.

Occupation: mechainc, crop farmer, raise Black Angus cattle

Family: wife, Verna; daughter Shelly, her husband, Brad, and two grandsons; two step-daughters, Lana Crawford and Tisha Cole; three step-sons, Darrin and Clint Cole and John Crawford; eight step-grandsons and two step-granddaughters

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

Missouri Tractor Pullers Association for 36 years -- president and vice president for 35 years; Odessa Water Board; WCE board-Jackson County director, 18 years; Farm Bureau; Baptist Church of Oak Grove.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? In the past years, I have learned from our cooperative members that they don't always understand the need for changes made by our board members. Our board has the obligation to keep our cooperative members informed of the reasons for improvements made or not made. Change is slow, but progress is being made. Our cooperative needs to be more effective in our communications. As a director, I want to make the right decisions for all of our cooperative members.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I would like to maintain the work ethics of our cooperative by encouraging the board to make the right decision for the cooperative. We need to keep the rates as low as possible, but make improvements and changes as needed for efficient services. I am proud our board encourages the repair work to be done as soon as possible. I want to encourage the board to look at all options and make decisions that are best for the cooperative.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

Our main problem has always been government regulations. Therefore, as members of the board, we need to keep our senators and representatives informed to the changes made at their level that affect our cooperative. We have solar power now as an alternate energy. We need to keep pace with that change. I know the overhead expenses of owning and operating farms and a business. The struggle for improvement never stops.

Additional comments: Serving on the West Central board for the past 18 years has been a privilege. I want to say thank you for your past support and would appreciate your continued support for re-election.

District 2



Stan Rhodes
Corder, Mo.

Occupation: Farmer

Family: Married to Vicky; daughters Maddie and husband, Dane; Bailey and husband, Atticus; sons Mason, and Spencer, and Beau and wife, Katie; grandchildren Marley, Roman, Ian and Ellie

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Corn Growers Association, president of Corder Lions Club, John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship and West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship committees

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? Serving on the board the past six years has been a very enjoyable and educational experience. I have the time and will work to keep our cooperative running efficiently.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? My goals for the next three years are to continue to learn more about the electricity business, keep rates as low as possible, and help the cooperative maintain and improve the reliable service we expect as members.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

Environmental issues and government regulations are always concerns that cooperatives have to deal with and adjust to. Eliminating or even reducing the amount of coal we use for generation will have an effect on our wholesale costs and keeping our members' electric bills affordable.

Additional comments: I want to thank all the members for their past support, and I look forward to serving the cooperative in the future.

District 4



Sandra Streit
Holden, Mo.

Occupation: Sales manager for Tri-Meats, Inc, an international meat and poultry sales and processing company

Family: (spouse, children and grandchildren): Married to Marshall Streit, FFA Advisor and Agricultural Education Instructor at Cass Career Center; one daughter Rylee, an incoming freshman at South Dakota State University and one son Garrett, a junior at Holden High School

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

Johnson County Extension Council Member, Holden FFA Alumni member. We are active members in the Palomino Horse Breeders Association, traveling the Midwest from Minnesota to Mississippi showing horses

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? While having a full-time job and an active family keeps me busy, I have always found it rewarding and important to be involved in the community. I serve at the pleasure of my cooperative's membership. One term is great to get your feet planted, now we, as a board, are really trying to make moves to position the co-op for the future energy marketplace. That is an ever-evolving task, one I wish to continue to work toward. My core mission has not changed in the 3 years I have served our cooperative membership -- focus on the objective: quality electric service at the best value for our members.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? One term has really helped me understand our "in-house" needs as well as our membership needs. Creating a work environment suitable for long-term growth, as well as our cooperative's place in renewable energy needs to be further explored. How best we can maximize our business model as a distribution cooperative is a priority.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Natural resources, their sourcing and regulation is what I believe to be our biggest issue; whether it be the harvest of coal or the best way to address the desire for renewables. This is a long-term business, with many layers of comprehension. Addressing energy generation with narrow vision is not reasonable. We have to find balance, while constantly pushing our industry to work smarter; challenge the norm, but respect the knowledge we have gained from those same past experiences.

Additional comments: None given.

District 4



Darlene Buckstead
Holden, Mo.

Occupation: Nurse, farm wife

Family: married to Kevin Buckstead; daughter, Pat Carstens; son-in-law, Kyle Carstens; grandson, Lars Carstens

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

President, Johnson County Farm Bureau; member, secretary, Missouri Farm Bureau Farm PAC; active member of Chilhowee Baptist Church

Why did you agree to run for election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? I feel it is the responsibility of the members to support our cooperative in any way possible. I have been a partner in managing a business for many years.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? Use my skills to assist in the operation of our cooperative.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

We see increasing regulatory pressures. Thorough understanding of these mandates is critical. I would use my networking skills with our elected representatives for open discussions of the issues we face.

Additional comments: I hope to be of value serving our cooperative and providing the best service to our members.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members, August 21, 2015

To be approved at August 5, 2016 Annual Meeting of Members

The 76th Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Cooperative"), was held at the Multipurpose Building on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Johnson County, State of Missouri, on Friday, August 21, 2015, pursuant to the bylaws of the Cooperative and notice to membership.

Registration began at 5:00 p.m. and a meal was served. Musical entertainment was provided by Dave Rest.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business session was called to order by Densil Allen, Jr., President of the Cooperative, at 7:00 pm. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept.

Youth Tour Delegate Britnee Morris led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and an audio presentation of the National Anthem. A prayer of invocation was offered by Director Richard Strobel.

President Allen introduced special guests in attendance at the meeting and the Board of Directors.

The President called on Attorney Rod Widger to verify the presence of a quorum. Mr. Widger reported that the quorum formula required the presence of 140 members and that 684 members were registered at 6:30 p.m. It was therefore ordered that a quorum was established for the transaction of business.

President Allen presented the Agenda of the meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the Agenda was adopted as printed.

Secretary Simmons presented the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to waive the reading of the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. He referred attention to the Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting printed in the July issue of West Central Electric News with the Notice of Meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes as printed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen presented the President's Report recounting the business and activities of the Cooperative since the last annual meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dale Jarman presented Treasurer's Report. He directed attention to the financial information contained in the meeting program that was drawn from the audited records of the Cooperative. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

DIRECTOR ELECTION

President Allen called on Walter Hutcherson to present the report of the director Nominating Committee. Mr. Hutcherson affirmed that the committee nominated Jeremy Ahmann in District 1; Clark Bredehoeft from District 2; and Dale Jarman and Ralph Connell from District 4.

Mr. Widger conducted the election of Directors. He noted that there were no nominations received by petition. He called

for additional nominations from the floor for Districts 1, 2 and 4. Nominations were ceased and each nominee was allowed the opportunity to make brief remarks to the membership. Mr. Widger noted that since there was a single candidate for Districts 1 and 2, it was appropriate to elect Mr. Ahmann and Mr. Bredehoeft by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Jeremy Ahmann for District 1 and Clark Bredehoeft for District 2. The membership was given instructions regarding marking their ballot choices for District 4.

BYLAW VOTING

Mr. Widger introduced the 2015 board initiated Bylaw Propositions. On motion made and seconded, the propositions were placed before the membership for discussion and debate.

On Motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to amend Proposition A to make the Article III, Section 5 of the bylaw proposition read as follows:

"Section 5. Voting - Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of the majority of the members voting thereon in person or by mail-in ballot, in addition to those voting by any other lawful means established by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of said meeting and specified in the notice of the meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws."

Following debate, members were given instructions regarding voting and collection of ballots.

The members appointed as election judges were identified and called to collect and count director election and bylaw proposition ballots.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Mike Gray presented the Manager's Report updating the membership on operations, maintenance, right-of way clearing, and finances. He also reminded the membership of the many convenient ways to conduct their business with the Cooperative.

ADJOURNMENT

President Allen asked for any unfinished or new business. There was none. Steve Moore and employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership meeting was adjourned.

ELECTION RESULTS

Following adjournment, Mr. Widger returned to the podium to report the election results as follows: Director election District 4: Dale Jarman – 312 votes; Ralph Connell – 125 votes. It was therefore declared that by motion and election Dale Jarman, Clark Bredehoeft, and Jeremy Ahmann were each elected for a term of 3 years until their successors are elected and qualified.

Bylaw Proposition A received 378 "yes" votes and 177 "no" votes. Bylaw Proposition B received 177 "yes" votes and 157 "no" votes. It was ordered that the Bylaw Propositions A and B were passed to be effective immediately.

2016 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting of members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, August 5, 2016 on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg

The meeting will feature:

1. The report of officers, directors and committees
2. The election of **ONE** director each from District 1, District 2 and District 4 to serve until the third succeeding annual meeting of the members, or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. The following members have been nominated for directors:

District 1

Max Swisegood, Oak Grove, Mo.

District 2

Stan Rhodes, Corder Mo.

District 4

Sandra Streit, Holden, Mo.

Darlene Buckstead, Holden, Mo.

3. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

seal

Robert Simmons, Secretary

July 11, 2016

Map to UCM Multipurpose Building

