



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

February 2016

# ElectricNews

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

## Start the new year with a pledge to save energy

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home, and desired comfort levels. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, consumers

desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the hot air from infiltrating cool abodes.

### Fall and winter: keeping heat in

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check

for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the

Continued on page 4

## Portable generator safety is vital to you as well as our line crews

Portable generators can be helpful during an extended power outage. But if not operated properly, you can place yourself as well as line crews from your electric co-op at risk of injury or death.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that 190 non-fire carbon monoxide-poisoning deaths occurred in 2008, according to its most recent data. Most were related to portable generator use.

First rule of thumb? Never, ever use a generator indoors—even with windows open—or in an enclosed area, including an attached garage. Locate the generator where fumes cannot filter into your home through windows or doors—even 15 feet is too close. Carbon monoxide, which is odorless and invisible, can build up to lethal levels in a matter of minutes. If you plan to use a generator, install a carbon monoxide detector, and test the batteries monthly.

To avoid risk of shock, use your generator only on a dry surface where rain or snow can't leak or puddle underneath. If precipitation poses a problem, create an open-air, tent-like structure above the unit, but make sure to leave at least 3 to 4 feet of space above and around it to vent carbon monoxide.

You also need to protect folks working to restore power. Never plug your portable generator into a wall outlet in your home. This produces "backfeeding"—a dangerous risk to the safety of linework-

ers because it can energize power lines thought to be dead. For stationary generators that are permanently installed, a licensed electrician will need to install a "transfer switch" that complies with the National Electric Code. The switch safely cuts the electricity to the power lines. And be sure to call West Central Electric before you install a generator to ensure safety for yourself and lineworkers.

A few other rules are important to keep top of mind:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and safety tips for your generator.

- Plug appliances into the outlet on the generator using only heavy-duty extension cords marked specifically for outdoor use. Check the wattage use of each appliance plugged in and make sure the total does not exceed the cord's wattage rating. In addition, the cords should have three prongs and should not be frayed or cut.

- Shut down the generator and let it cool down before you refuel—gasoline or kerosene spilled on a hot generator could start a fire.

- If you're buying your first portable generator, plan ahead. Count the wattages for the lighting and appliances—you'll want to purchase a generator that can handle the load.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, American Red Cross, Electrical Safety Foundation International



**MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY...**  
(Above) Adalaide Wilson, 2, and her brother, Oliver, 4, (left photo), enjoy spending some time at WCE's annual Member Appreciation Day. Their favorites were the cookies and the coloring books. Their parents are Mitchel and Elyn Wilson of Odessa.



## ***2017 WCEC and State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship***

### **I. General Description**

West Central Electric Cooperative, Higginsville, Missouri, will accept applications from students interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This program provides for students a two-year scholarship in a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training. General provisions of the scholarship are as follows:

### **II. Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicant should reside in the West Central Electric Cooperative service area.
- Applicant shall be expected to participate in an interview with the cooperative general manager and/or staff representatives in April of the application year.
- Applicant should be a student in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 high school cumulative GPA, or GED with 260 minimum score.
- Applicant should be admitted as a full-time student to State Technical College, and be accepted into the State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Program.
- Applicant should attend State Technical College commencing during the Fall semester immediately following receipt of the application.
- Applicant is required to complete a summer internship at West Central Electric Cooperative the summer semester between the first and second years of the academic program.

### **III. Selection Criteria and Award of Scholarship**

A. To be considered, applicants must forward a complete application by the scholarship application deadline of April 1, 2017. The criteria used to evaluate applications for award will be based upon the following:

- Academic achievement
- Civic involvement
- Leadership
- Ability to communicate clearly defined personal goals through personal goal statement (on application)
- Financial need
- Interview conducted by the general manager and/or cooperative staff

B. Selection Priority: This is a one-time annual scholarship awarded to full-time students attending State Technical College. West Central Electric Cooperative will determine the number of awards based on need and the number of applicants as well as the availability of funds. In the event a student is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester in the year the scholarship is awarded, the scholarship may be transferred to the next available alternate.

C. Scholarship Award: The scholarship provides \$2,400 annually; \$1,200 is applied to recipient's account at State Technical College in the fall semester upon the student's verified enrollment. The scholarship may be used for the cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, and/or other costs associated with a student's education. The scholarship is renewable each semester if the recipient meets the continued expectations of the scholarship, up to \$4,800 maximum per recipient.

### **IV. Application**

Deadline for application to assure consideration for the next following academic year is April 1, 2016. Please submit the following to be considered:

- State Technical College letter of acceptance
- High school transcript, college transcript or official GED score report.
- Complete scholarship application, including personal goal statement.
- Two letters of character reference.
- Applications may be printed and mailed along with transcript or GED report and letters, or you may apply online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." If you apply online, please mail your high school transcript or GED score report and your letters of reference. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2016. Please also either email your photo as a .jpg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript and letters.
- Applications may be mailed to West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attention: Heather Hoflander, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### **V. Expectations of Scholarship Recipient**

- Recipient must maintain 3.0 GPA per semester. There will be a one (1) semester probation should the student's grades fall below a 3.0 GPA. Failure to return to a 3.0 could mean loss of scholarship. Applicant will provide the cooperative with a transcript at the end of each semester.
- Recipient must attend all classes and work as scheduled. Excessive school attendance absences may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.
- Recipient must comply with State Technical College's student policies and rules. Failure to abide by such policies and rules may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.
- Recipient must contractually agree to work at West Central Electric Cooperative for four years following completion of the degree. A copy of the employment contract is attached as Exhibit A. The receipt of this scholarship is expressly contingent upon the successful applicant executing said employment contract, Exhibit A. Failure to complete the contract would mean reimbursement of the scholarship based on incomplete term. Employment after graduation will be solely at the discretion of West Central Electric Cooperative management. The employment contract may be changed or terminated at any time due to employee misconduct or if a position is not available.
- In the event the student initially awarded the scholarship is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester, the scholarship may be awarded to the next available alternate.
- Release of Information: In submitting the application, the applicant grants permission for the scholarship committee to review high school and college transcripts and to contact character references. Submission of the application also grants permission to promote and publicize the scholarship and recipient(s).
- Recipient must submit an official transcript to West Central Electric Cooperative at the conclusion of each semester to verify eligibility and GPA.

### **VI. Winners' Notification**

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by May 1, 2017.

## ***2017 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship***

### **I. Background**

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust was created under the terms of the Last Will & Testament of Kathryn English. The purpose of this trust is to provide scholarship grants for high school graduates who are or were active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation and who desire to attend college to pursue a degree. John English, a former director of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., designated West Central's Board of Directors as Trustees of the Memorial Scholarship Trust.

### **II. Amount of Scholarship**

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee will award at least one \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) to a student beginning his/her freshman year in college. This student may reapply for additional grants for their next three years of study. The amount of these grants will vary due to availability of funds. The committee may decide to make one or more one-time scholarship awards based on merit.

### **III. Selection Criteria**

- The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, creed or color.
- The applicant must attend a high school in West Central Electric's service area, or have a parent or legal guardian who is a current West Central Electric member.
- A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.
- A minimum ACT score of 18 is required.
- Participation in 4-H at the time of high school graduation is required.
- Two reference letters are required. No letter may come from a relative, and one letter must be from an adult involved with 4-H (for example a project leader, a 4-H youth specialist, a county livestock specialist etc.)
- A high school transcript must accompany the application.
- The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question # 5 on this application.
- Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.
- Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.
- All scholarship applications MUST BE TYPED.
- High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.) \*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.

M. All of the above requirements, except item I, must be met for an application to be considered

### **IV. Restrictions**

Children and grandchildren of current WCE directors are not eligible to apply.

### **V. Application Deadline**

All applications must be postmarked on or before Feb. 24, 2017. Send applications to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### **VI. On-line applications**

Scholarship applications are available on line at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out on line and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 2017.

### **VII. Finalist Notification**

Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 22, 2017. All students applying for this scholarship should tentatively plan for an interview on this date. Those scheduled for interviews will be notified by Monday, March 6, 2017 by both phone and mail.

## 2017 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

### I. Amount of Scholarship

This year, up to 20 high school seniors will receive a \$500 West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship for use at any college, university, trade or technical school.

### II. Selection Criteria

A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, creed or color.

B. The applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a current WCE member.

C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.

D. A minimum ACT score of 18 is required.

E. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

**\*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.**

F. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question # 7 on this application.

G. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. Winners who have not included a photo with their application will appear as "photo not available" in all publicity materials.

H. All scholarship applications MUST BE TYPED.

I. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.)

J. All of the above requirements, except item G, must be met for the application to be considered

### III. Restrictions

A. Children and grandchildren of current West Central employees and directors are not eligible to apply.

B. Four-year recipients of the John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust will not be considered.

### IV. Application Deadline

All applications must be postmarked on or before March 17, 2017.

Send applications to: Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### V. On-line applications

Scholarship applications are available on line at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out on line and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 17, 2017.

### VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by May 1, 2017 by mail.

# Scholarship money is available to area high school seniors

Each year, West Central Electric Cooperative makes an investment in the future of our communities by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships to area high school graduating seniors.

Three different scholarships are available through WCE; the West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship, the John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship and the West Central Electric Cooperative and State Technical College Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

The **John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship** Trust is a renewable scholarship given to seniors active in 4-H. Scholarship amounts depend on the current status of the trust fund.

The **West Central Electric Scholarship** is a one-time award given to graduating seniors each year. The number of scholarships awarded depends on the availability of funds. WCE will award up to twenty \$500 scholarships each year.

The **West Central Electric Cooperative and State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship Program** provides a two-year college scholarship to a student interested in pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at State Technical College, Linn, Missouri. This scholarship provides for students a quality college training program, a two-year college degree, and on-the-job training.

Details on all three scholarship programs can be found in this newsletter or online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop). Applications are available online, at either of WCE's two offices, from area high school counselors, or at the Jackson, Johnson and Lafayette county University Outreach and Extension Centers.

For more information on West Central Electric Cooperative's scholarship programs, contact WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Scholarship applications are available  
from the following places:

- ◆at your high school counselor's office,
- ◆online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop),
- ◆from West Central Electric Cooperative's Higginsville office or Oak Grove office.

Call WCE at 1-800-491-3803  
for more information.

IMPORTANT  
DEADLINES

Students entering the

### 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 10, 2017.

Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 10, 2017.

Applications for the

### 2017 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 24, 2017.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 24, 2017.

Applications for the

### 2017 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than March 17, 2017.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 17, 2017.

Applications for the

### 2017 WCE and STC Electrical Distributions System Scholarship

Must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2017.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2017.



**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

## From the Boardroom...

*Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held November 21, 2016*

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: Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Sandra Streit Jeremy Ahmann and Stan Rhodes. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and Shawn Battagler, general counsel.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved as amended.

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Oct. 27, 2016; expenditures for the month of October 2016; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following October 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; the written monthly Construction, Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report.

### SAFETY REPORT

Gray presented the safety report for the month of October.

### AMEC REPORT

Gray and board members reported their attendance at the AMEC annual meeting and highlights including: speakers and topics of discussion relating to political activity of interest to electric cooperatives, a presentation by an international assistance group, Youth Tour participants, FEMA issues and solar.

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

Gary reported there was no November N.W. meeting. He reported his attendance to the managers' meeting. Highlights from that meeting included AEI update, coal and gas issues, rate expectations and solar facilities proposal.

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman reported, and the board approved, continuing to provide the English Scholarship and WCE Scholarship with the same requirements as last year.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray reported on building renovation updates and construction, staffing proposals, payment drop discussions and discussions regarding the retreat.

### DRAW DOWN ON LINE OF CREDIT

The board resolved to approve a draw of \$5,000,000 on the cooperative's line of credit as recommended by Gray.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

None.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

## 2016 Member Appreciation Day winners:

### \$25 Energy Certificates

Wendell Schneider, Odessa	Karen Athon, Odessa
Brett Brackman, Concordia	Karlene Eagan, Odessa
Anna Luellen, Warrensburg	Debbie Shockey, Oak Grove
Duane Arbogast, Higginsville	Gail Hibler, Odessa

### Willie Wiredhand Ornaments

Richard Ackermann, Concordia	Kathy Durham, Odessa
Judy O'Neal, Lexington	Brenda Nieweg, Napoleon

# Start the new year with a pledge to save energy

### From page 1

plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs. (**\*This is for conventional furnaces, and is NOT applicable for heat pumps.**)

### SPRING AND SUMMER -- KEEPING YOUR COOL

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two, and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Moreover, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting to approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates wasteful and unwanted heat. Employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

*Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues 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.*

### FINANCIAL REPORT • *Statement of Operations* • October 2016

	This month	YTD 2016	YTD 2015
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1,791,802</b>	<b>21,973,312</b>	<b>21,195,131</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,206,170	13,696,891	13,528,148
Operation & Maint. Expense	511,653	4,952,604	4,967,606
Depreciation Expense	168,764	1,663,344	1,593,757
Interest Expense	<u>100,516</u>	<u>987,192</u>	<u>1,086,084</u>
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>1,987,103</b>	<b>21,300,031</b>	<b>21,175,595</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(195,301)	673,282	19,536
Other Margins	<u>3,444</u>	<u>184,101</u>	<u>139,649</u>
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>(191,857)</b>	<b>857,383</b>	<b>159,185</b>