



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

West Central Electric Cooperative

October 2017

ElectricNews

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

Co-ops Commit

Cooperatives roll out this year's theme for National Cooperative Month

West Central Electric is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide. "Cooperatives Commit" is the theme of this year's celebration, when cooperatives across the nation engage in efforts to make more people aware of the advantages of the cooperative business model.

**CO-OPS
COMMIT**

Co-op Month 2017

As member-owned and member-controlled businesses, cooperatives commit to meeting the needs of their members and communities, rather than generating returns for distant investors.

"This year's theme is right on target, because co-ops commit in so many ways to meeting the needs of their members and building stronger communities," said WCE General Manager Mike Gray.

Consider these ways that co-ops commit:

Cooperatives Commit to Communities

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools.

WCE employees routinely serve as judges for local 4-H and FFA fairs, and 4-H project leaders. The cooperative itself is a huge supporter of these organizations through donations and sponsorships to the area fairs and recognition banquets.

We support our local scholars and athletes through scholarship programs and sponsorship of events such as the KMZU Dream Teams and various academic recognition banquets.

Cooperatives Commit to Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay



COOPERATIVES COMMIT... Along with the commitment to providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, is our commitment to work safely. WCE linemen participate in monthly safety meetings with continuous training and ongoing education. Here, linemen participate in transformer change-out training. The 5th Cooperative Principle is "Education, Training and Information." Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Cooperatives also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience, and cooperative representatives have spent time serving with local

economic development groups.

Cooperatives Commit to Trust

Most co-ops strive to adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the co-op, its members and the com-

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Nelson

Nelson is new district operations supervisor

WCE General Manager Mike Gray has announced former Journeyman Lineman Pete Nelson as the cooperative's new district operations supervisor.

Nelson began his duties Sept. 5 at the Oak Grove facility. In addition to planning and supervising daily activities for the Oak Grove crews, he is responsible for administering the cooperative's safety program. Nelson will also become a certified loss control professional, as well as maintain DOT and OSHA compliance, inspect crews and facilitate the co-op's Emergency Action Plan, in addition to other duties.

"I am looking forward to the transition and the opportunity to serve the members and employees of West Central Electric in this new role," Nelson said. "I hope to use my previous experience working as a lineman and make a positive impact on the company."

Nelson began work at WCE in 1998 as an apprentice lineman. He moved through the ranks of apprenticeship and achieved journeyman status in February 2001, a position he held until his recent appointment.

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

Co-ops roll out theme for National Cooperative Month

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munity. For example, the first principle is Voluntary and Open Membership, which means that we are a voluntary organization open to all people to use our services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second principle, Democratic Member Control, gives members a voice in the cooperative's policies and decisions, such as voting on bylaw changes at the annual meeting.

Through the fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, we enable members to contribute to the develop-

ment of our cooperative. WCE also sponsors an area teacher each year to attend the Energy in Today's Classroom program at the University of Missouri. This year's attendee was Becky Forest of Knob Noster High school.

"The class was very informative, and I will be using many of the things I learned in my classroom," she said.

Cooperatives Commit to a Better World

Through all of the above ways, cooperatives build a better world. Our focus has always been providing our members with the safest most reliable and affordable electricity, but making the world a

better place for our members and future members to live is another important goal for which we strive.

Taking care of the environment, providing educational opportunities, and keeping up with the latest technology -- whether it is the equipment in our generating plants or an app that allows you to pay your bill easily -- cooperatives are committed to building a better world.

Although all of these commitments are ongoing all year around, it is in October that we take time to celebrate them, our members, and what it means to be a cooperative.

Our history, our future...

Looking back provides the path for looking forward

You may have heard it said, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Yet sometimes remembering our history with the goal of repeating it can actually be a good thing. As the nation's 30,000 cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month this October, it is a great time to take a look back -- and a look forward.

Take the history of your electric co-op. West Central Electric Cooperative was founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural community. Big investor-owned power companies thought they couldn't generate enough profit so they bypassed rural areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative.

Once established, annual meetings were the "must attend" event of the year. The co-op -- on behalf of the member-owners -- committed to provide the community with electricity.

Fast forward to today -- and tomorrow. WCE currently serves more than 12,000 members. We have returned more than \$25 million in capital credits.

We understand the spirit that helped create this co-op must be continually nurtured. While times and technology will continue to change, our commitment to you will not. Although we started out to provide electricity, our impact (with your support) has grown.

As we continue to look toward the future, you can be confident that WCE will commit to explore new ways to help our members and our community. We provide high-speed satellite internet services through Exede, and we offer the Smarthub app for members to pay their bills, look at account information and make payment arrangements. Over the years, as we've listened to you and your fellow co-op member-owners, we know that we have to keep pace as technology and consumer tastes evolve. As always, we welcome your participation as we plan for the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop

Doutt wins WCE AECEI Technical Scholarship



William Doutt (left) receives a \$600 scholarship check from Joel Wilhite of the Holden Power Plant. Doutt will study mechanical engineering.

Each year, staff at the Associated Electric Cooperative Holden Power Plant awards one Holden High School graduating senior with the West Central Electric Cooperative AECEI Technical Scholarship. This scholarship is given to a student who is pursuing a degree in a technical field.

This year's recipient was William Absalom Doutt IV. He will be attending Longview College on the A+ program scholarship for two years, and after that will continue his pursuit of a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Doutt was recognized at his graduation ceremony in May, and the \$600 check was recently presented to him by Joel Wilhite of the Holden Power Plant.

The Holden Power Plant is a 321-megawatt peaking plant that is part of the diverse resources Associated Electric uses to provide a wholesale power supply to six regional and 51 local electric cooperatives in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma.

Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. is owned by and provides wholesale power to six regional and 51 local electric cooperative systems in Missouri, southeast Iowa and northeast Oklahoma that serve more than 875,000 customers. Associated's mission is to provide an economical and reliable power supply and support services to its members, including the "Take Control & Save" energy efficiency program, www.TakeControlAndSave.coop. Associated is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Eclipse is a bit strange when you are an electric utility

When the goal of your profession is to keep the lights on, seeing things go dark is usually not a good thing. On August 21, however, West Central Electric linemen were just as fascinated as everyone else to see the world go dark for a few minutes as the solar eclipse took effect.

“It was one of the coolest things I have ever seen,” said Brandon Heck. “It was a pretty eerie feeling.”

Although all of North America and several other continents were able to view at least a partial eclipse, West Central Electric offices were located in the path of totality of the eclipse that spanned the country from Lincoln Beach, Oregon to Charleston, South Carolina, or parts of 14 states. Within the area of totality, viewers were treated to a total solar eclipse, with the moon

completely covering the sun’s atmosphere, leaving only the corona visible for more than two full minutes. At WCE’s headquarters, there was more than two-and-a-half minutes of darkness. Birds flew in circles and chirped wildly, DD lights came on, crickets began chirping, and then, just as suddenly, it was gone and the sun’s light began to shine again as the moon uncovered it.

“It was a pretty amazing experience to see something like that,” WCE Accountant Pam Fuenfhausen said.

People traveled from around the country and around the world to Central Missouri and other areas along the path of totality to see the rare event.

The last time the contiguous United States saw a total eclipse was in 1979.



(Above) WCE Line Foreman Jeff Miller views the eclipse from the Oak Grove office.



(Top right) The eclipse reaches totality at the Higginsville office. As the time of totality neared, a few travelers began stopping in the cooperative’s parking lot to take in the view.



(Bottom Right) WCE Apprentice Lineman Nathan Johnson and Groundman Doug Bird take a few minutes to watch the historical eclipse from the headquarters building in Higginsville.

**Don’t forget to pick up your
FREE REFLECTIVE HALLOWEEN TREAT BAG
at your cooperative
offices in Higginsville and Oak Grove.**

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 27, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Clark Bredehoeft. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following Directors were present: Max Swisegood, Richard Strobel, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Stan Rhodes and Jeremy Ahmann. Absent was Densil Allen, Jr. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, General Counsel Shawn Battagler, Office Manager Sandy Starke and Kevin Kelso, auditor.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Kelso presented his report on the audit of the cooperative books for 2016. He answered questions from the board and highlighted key financial ratios.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 22, 2017; expenditures for the month of June 2017; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following June 2017 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 for the month of June.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray reported their attendance at the AMEC monthly meeting. Items of interest included: personnel issues, international program, linemen rodeo, Rural Missouri update, training, legislative and legal update, future meetings and donations.

N.W. ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC. REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported their attendance to the N.W. meeting. Highlights of the meeting included: AECI update, wind farms, solar, storm damage, key accounts event and policy updates.

DIRECTOR CONFERENCE REPORT

Directors who attended the statewide Directors' Conference reported on the subject and speakers from the conference. Items of interest included: rural broadband, rate structure and demand charges, renewables, federal and rural initiatives, NRECA update and succession planning.

POLICY UPDATES

The board reviewed and approved proposed changes to policies.

AUDIT AGREEMENT 2017 & 2018

The board approved the audit agreement.

ANNUAL MEETING

Gray and the board discussed details of the annual meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray provided his Manager's Report for the month which included information on capital credit check issues, road widening and turn lane, discussion regarding Democratic Rules of Order, personnel issues, area development and State Fair involvement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • June 2017

	This month	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
Revenue	2,204,055	13,256,628	12,914,350
Power Bill Expense	1,344,651	7,939,069	8,188,406
Operation & Maint. Expense	459,574	3,081,518	2,872,693
Depreciation Expense	173,166	1,029,508	990,893
Interest Expense	104,323	647,858	604,229
Total cost of Srvcs. (Total Expense)	2,081,715	12,697,954	12,656,221
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	122,340	558,674	258,129
Other Margins	28,025	161,066	82,569
	150,365	719,741	340,699



MISSOURI RIVER 340... WCE congratulates cooperative General Utility Man Eric Wegener on a great finish in the MR 340. (Bottom photo) Wegener stands at the finish line of the MR 340 after finishing 46th place in the men's solo division, and 120th overall out of more than 400 that started the race (top photo). His time was 64:15.

Tackle energy efficiency projects now for winter

Fall is a good time to take stock of what energy-efficiency needs you have and get ready for winter. Start with a call to your cooperative or check its website to find out what rebates and services it offers. You might qualify for some money back on an efficiency investment.

Next, if you haven't had an energy audit of your home, sign up for one through your cooperative or a reputable energy auditor. It will be money well spent because the audit should show you exactly where you are wasting energy.

Locate leaks before cold sets in

The best way to measure air leaks in your home is through a blower door test that depressurizes the house. This test is typically part of an energy audit conducted by a qualified technician. Check with your cooperative to see if it offers energy audits or can recommend a vendor.

But even without a blower door test, here's how to find some air leaks, according to the U.S. Department of Energy:

Outside Inspection

On the outside of your house, inspect: All areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, outdoor water faucets, where siding and chimneys meet and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet

Exterior storm windows and doors to make sure they are securely fastened

Regular windows and doors: if you can rattle them or see daylight around them, you've got leaks

Inside Inspection

Inside your home, look for any cracks and gaps in the following areas:

- Electrical outlets
- Switch plates
- Door and window frames
- Electrical and gas service entrances
- Baseboards
- Weatherstripping around doors
- Fireplace dampers
- Attic hatches
- Wall- or window-mounted air conditioners.
- Cable TV and phone lines
- Where dryer vents pass through walls
- Vents and fans
- Pipes and wires, foundation seals, even mail slots

You also can do your own blower-door, pressurization test to find leaks. DOE says to:

- Turn off all combustion appliances, such as gas-burning furnaces and water heaters, on a cool, very windy day; if you don't want to turn off the furnace, turn on all exhaust fans
- Shut all windows, exterior doors and fireplace flues
- Turn on all exhaust fans that blow air outside, such as your clothes dryer, bathroom fans, or stove vents, or use a large window fan to suck the air out of the rooms
- Light an incense stick and pass it around the edges of common leak sites; wherever the smoke wavers or is sucked out of or blown into the room, there's a draft; you also can use a damp hand to locate leaks — drafts will feel cool to your hand.