



West Central Electric Cooperative

August 2018

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ElectricNews

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



Youth Tour '18

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME...Delegates on the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. stopped for a visit at the White House on their way out of town. This year's Missouri delegation was 106-strong, and nationwide was the largest Youth Tour group in history with more than 1,800 delegates representing cooperatives from across the country. (Additional coverage on page 3.)

Summer storm pounds WCE

The heavy morning air on June 26 gave a hint to afternoon events as thunderstorms blossomed near Kansas City and headed straight through the heart of the West Central Electric Cooperative system.

A tornado warning in the Oak Grove area and winds topping 90 mph north of Warrensburg knocked out power to more than 2,000 members at the height of the storm. Every county in the service area experienced outages with a total of 707 in Jackson County, 1,258 in Johnson County, 82 in Lafayette County, two in Cass County and one in Pettis County.

The Fayetteville Substation was back up within about an hour, and the Chapel Hill Substation was back online within a couple hours after that. Those repairs restored power to the majority of members out due to the storm. Everyone was back on by about 1 a.m.

PREPARING FOR AND STAYING SAFE DURING STORMS

Although tornado season is officially over in late June, the unpredictable Missouri weather can spawn severe

thunderstorms and damaging winds much later in the summer. Follow these tips from NOAA and the American Red Cross to keep you and your home safe when tornadoes and severe thunderstorms come your way:

- Prepare for high winds by removing diseased and damaged tree limbs.
- Listen to local news or National Weather Service broadcasts to stay informed about tornado watches and warnings.
- If in a mobile home, immediately head to a sturdy shelter or vehicle. Mobile homes, especially hallways and bathrooms, are not safe places to take shelter during tornadoes or other severe winds.
- Designate a family meeting place for shelter during and after a storm. If possible, go to your home's basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest level. Also, have a battery-operated weather radio handy along with emergency supplies.
- Unplug your electronics. Avoid using electrical equipment and corded telephones.

Continued on page 4



A TANGLED MESS...WCE linemen locate one of the many lines down during the June 26 storm that knocked out power to more than 2,000 members. A super cell thunderstorm prompted at least one tornado warning and 90+mph winds in the area. This line was along Highway F.

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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

Operation Round Up kicks off next month

Beginning with the September billing, members who have not opted out of the new Operation Round Up program will see their bills rounded up to the next dollar with proceeds earmarked to help fund community service projects, economic development, education and youth, the environment and disaster relief in our local communities.

Disbursement of funds will be determined by an Operation Round-Up board who will evaluate the requests and determine how funds are distrib-

uted. The next board meeting will take place in November.

are asked to contact West Central Electric with your request. **Members**



Members who would like to opt-out of the Operation Round-Up program

are reminded that everyone will be automatically enrolled in this pro-

gram, however, you may contact WCE with your request to opt out if you do not wish to participate.

The average member contribution will total around \$6 per year, with the maximum being just over \$11. Donations are also tax-deductible. Although \$6 to \$11 may not seem like much, when totaled together with other members' contributions, we can make good things happen. Some cooperatives have returned millions of dollars to their local communities.

REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS Regarding Capital Credits...

● Your 2018 capital credit refund appeared as a credit on your July billing statement.

● If a member has multiple accounts, the credit was 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 1998 may receive capital credits. If you do not see a credit on your account, and feel you should have, you may contact Michael Newland at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

● Inactive, non-members' checks were mailed July 16, 2018.



POLE-TOP RESCUE...Safety is one of West Central Electric's chief concerns, and all aspects of safety are discussed and practiced during monthly safety meetings held at the cooperative. June's safety meeting highlighted pole-top rescue for our linemen. (Above) WCE lineman Brandon Steffen works to harness and lower a dummy from the top of a pole.

Youth Tour is trip of a lifetime for local students

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.

In June, Hunter Todd, Kaylee Henry, Haley Hunter and Jaycee Mudd joined more than 100 other youth from across Missouri on the national Rural Electric Youth Tour. The tour brought together a historic 1,800+ 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.

“The Youth Tour is advertised as ‘the trip of a lifetime,’ but I’m not sure I bought it until I began experiencing it for myself,” Mudd said. “However, Youth Tour was one of the most amazing things I have ever been a part of, and I’m so very thankful and blessed that West Central provided me with this opportunity to meet so many amazing people not only from Missouri, but from across the country as well.”

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.

“I made lifelong friends, I was given the opportunity to tour our nation’s capital, and truly experienced the trip of a lifetime,” Mudd said. “I am forever grateful to rural cooperatives for the Youth Tour program and so glad I got to partake in this experience.”

WCE has sent 65 area students to our nation’s capital since reestablishing the Youth Tour program at the cooperative in 1992.

WCE Youth Tour delegates (l-r) Kaylee Henry, Warrensburg High School; Jaycee Mudd, Wellington-Napoleon High School; Haley Hunter, Chilhowee High School and Hunter Todd, Odessa High School, visit the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

“The Youth Tour is advertised as ‘the trip of a lifetime,’ but I’m not sure I bought it until I began experiencing it for myself. Youth Tour was one of the most amazing things I have ever been a part of. I am forever grateful to rural electric cooperatives for the Youth Tour program.”

—Jaycee Mudd
2018 Youth Tour Delegate

WCE Youth Tour delegates Haley Hunter, Jaycee Mudd and Kaylee Henry (l-r at far right) and some new Missouri Youth Tour friends take in the Lincoln Memorial.

WCE Youth Tour delegate Hunter Todd at Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington.

The Missouri delegation at NRECA Youth Day.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 24, 2018

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, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and general counsel Sheri Smiley.

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 April 26, 2018; expenditures for the month of April 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following April 2018 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 gave the safety report for the month of April.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for May. He discussed AECI updates including: a new wind farm, car charging stations, the purchase of New Madrid One, and reported that the format for the 2019 N.W. annual meeting will stay the same. He also discussed the AMEC District One Meeting, the people who will be on the executive committees as well as the people nominated for awards.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray discussed that the request for ballots will be included in the June billing and that any Petitions to file for a Board position must be submitted by June 4, 2018. He also discussed the issues of having no ballots if there are no contested elections. It was decided to continue with the ballots at the annual meeting, regardless if there is a contested election.

OPERATION ROUND UP

Gray shared member comments he had received and reported that 1,274 have opted out to date. He also discussed level pay members and that a letter will be mailed to them. There will be a FAQ section added to the web page regarding Operation Round Up.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Smiley gave the Nominating Committee Report. She reported that the meeting was held on May 17, 2018, and the following nominations were made: District 1: Jeremy Ahmann, District 2: Clark Bredehoeft, District 4: Dale Jarman. There were no other nominations made.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: the Missouri Directors Conference, the CFC Statewide Workshop and AECI's Annual Meeting. He also reported that the auditor will be at the July meeting to present the Audit and the RUS field rep will be at the June meeting to present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • April 2018

	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 2017
Revenue	\$2,298,973	\$11,001,695	\$9,204,347
Power Bill Expense	1,390,678	6,277,001	5,398,154
Operation & Maint. Expense	498,704	2,013,742	2,150,851
Depreciation Expense	176,487	705,755	683,718
Interest Expense	106,158	414,885	440,316
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,172,027	9,411,383	8,673,039
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	126,946	1,590,312	531,308
Other Margins	9,735	70,006	122,480
TOTAL MARGINS	\$136,681	\$1,660,318	\$653,788

Summer storm pounds WCE

Preparing for and staying safe during storms

From page 1

•Remember that there is no safe place outside during a severe storm. If you are caught in a storm while on the road, the American Red Cross urges drivers to turn their headlights on, try to safely exit the roadway, and park. Stay in the vehicle with your seat belt on and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. If thunder and lightning is occurring, avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

•Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.

•Stay safe after a storm. Remain indoors at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder. Also, stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas, power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed power lines immediately to WCE at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

It's the humidity!

How to get rid of humidity in your home...

You probably know the signs of too much humidity in your home in spring and summer: dampness in the basement, condensation on windows, signs of mold. Too much humidity promotes mold, mildew and other biological growth that can lead to serious building damage and promote allergic reactions, asthma attacks and even pneumonia.

Too much humidity also can reduce energy efficiency. For example, running the air conditioner or a dehumidifier will reduce humidity but at a cost.

So it's important to keep humidity at bay.

First, understand why your house may be more susceptible to humidity problems. Missouri's Department of Natural Resources says the following factors can contribute:

- Less than 800 square feet of total living area
- Less than 250 square feet of living area per occupant
- Tight wall and ceiling construction and weatherstripping on windows and doors (low level of infiltration)
- Heating systems that use outside combustion air
- Low-sloped roofs or unventilated attics
- Cracked heat exchanger in gas space-heating equipment
- Electrically heated home
- Unvented appliances
- Excessive use of humidifier

Second, know the source. Most interior moisture comes from bathing, cleaning, cooking and water evaporation and emission. Outside moisture enters through leaks in your home's shell.

For interior moisture sources, look for stopped-up drains, leaky plumbing,

ing, washing machine hoses, shower tile grout and water heaters. To correct problems:

- Add ventilation fans in the kitchen, bathrooms and laundry rooms, and vent your clothes dryer to the outside
- Use exhaust fans about 10 minutes to remove moisture and odors after bathing or showering
- Repair stopped-up drains and leaky plumbing, hoses, shower tile grout and water heaters
- Reduce the number of house plants and pilot lights
- Use air conditioning or a dehumidifier
- For exterior moisture sources, look for leaks around windows, doors, electric outlets and air conditioning units. To correct problems:
 - Change air conditioning unit filters regularly
 - Weatherstrip and caulk to fix leaks in and around the roof, walls, windows, doors, outlets, air conditioning units and pipes
 - During humid weather, run the air conditioner regularly, but if the night-time low is forecasted to be 55 degrees or below, open windows
 - Properly vent attic and crawlspaces, and cover exposed earth in crawlspaces with a vapor barrier
 - Install downspouts that flow away from the foundation
 - Slope the grade away from the house
 - If you have single-pane windows, install storm panels, double-pane insulating glass or triple-glazed panels; remember, wood or vinyl-sheathed wood is a better insulator than metal for windows and doors

Eliminate the hassle of remembering to pay your bill each month.

Ask about our auto credit card and auto bankdraft payment plans. It's easy to sign up!

Just call 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Would you rather pay as you go?

We have pre-payment options too! Give us a call!