



West Central Electric Cooperative

May 2018

ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Electrical Safety Month

Don't get lax and overlook electrical hazards

We use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to over-

look possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes. May is Electrical Safety Month, and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have—your brain—to work.

"When it comes to electrical safety, knowledge is key," says Amber Sabin, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. "Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take can make all the difference in

preventing accidents."

Safe Electricity offers the following home safety tips to help arm you with the knowledge to stay safe and help others stay safe.

Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.

Make sure recognized safety laboratories, like UL, ETL, or CSA have certi-

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Cooperative announces changes in fees, deposit requirements

Changes in disconnect fees and deposit requirements approved by West Central Electric's board of directors at their March 22 meeting are now in effect, according to General Manager Mike Gray. These changes are designed to make it easier for members keep their bills paid on time and avoid penalties.

•Pre-Pay

As a pre-paid member, the normal membership deposit is not required, and members are not subject to normal collection fees.

Pre-Pay members are able to add money (\$5 or more) to their accounts at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year, in any increments they choose. Members are able to check their daily usage and receive alerts when funds on the account are getting low.

Current members who convert to pre-pay will have their existing deposit (if applicable) applied toward any outstanding balance, with the remaining credit (if applicable) applied to their pre-paid service. Any balance due to WCE for energy used but not billed before signing up for pre-pay will now have 25 percent of the payment (rather than 50 percent) applied to the unpaid balance while the remaining 75 percent goes toward the pre-pay account.

•Account Deposits

Members signing up for service, or those disconnected for non-payment who require a deposit will see those amounts change.

Results of a credit assessment will determine whether a deposit is \$250 or \$500. Those deposits will remain on the accounts as long as the member is on cooperative lines. If a member moves within the service area, the deposit may be transferred to the new account. Members moving off cooperative lines will have deposits applied to their final bill, with any remaining money refunded to the member.

Members who are disconnected for non-payment, and wish to reconnect without a deposit may sign up for the pre-pay service.



OPERATION ROUND-UP BOARD...Members of West Central Electric Cooperative's Round-Up Foundation Board include: Front row (l-r) Scott Stewart, LuAnn Stillwell and Oral Glasco. Back row (l-r) Randy Dowell, Margie Storck, Dennis Knipmeyer, Donna Matthews and Sally Davidson. Not pictured: Shelly Drecktrah.

Operation Round-Up program is moving forward

The West Central Electric Foundation Board is in place and held their first meeting in March to set policies and procedures. The West Central Electric Foundation Board is the group of members who will be responsible for disbursing funds received to area groups and organizations through the newly-formed Operation Round-Up program. The program will allow members' bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar each month with proceeds being contributed to area organizations such as emergency departments, schools, community groups, etc. to assist with community projects and programs.

Members are reminded that every one will be automatically enrolled in this program, however, you may contact WCE with your request to opt

information concerning the round-up program in their bills.

The average member contribution will total around \$6 per year, with



out if you do not wish to participate. Members will also soon be receiving

the maximum being just over \$11. Donations are also tax-deductible.

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

Youth Tour, CYCLE finalists are named

Nine area high school juniors have been named finalists in West Central Electric Cooperative's annual Rural Electric Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) competition.

They competed April 5 (contest had not happened yet at press time) for four all-expense-paid trips to Washington,

D.C. for the national Rural Electric Youth Tour.

"We are excited to be able to send four delegates to our nation's capital to experience our country's history and government on the national Rural Electric Youth Tour," WCE Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander

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Wilkinson and DeHaven join the ranks of West Central line crews

West Central Electric General Manager Mike Gray has announced the official hiring of two apprentice linemen who have joined line crews in Higginsville and Oak Grove.

Wyatt Wilkinson and Jonathan DeHaven, both recipients of the West Central Electric and State Technical College Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship, began working at the cooperative in November, and completed their probation periods in March. Wilkinson of Higginsville is working out of the Oak Grove location. DeHaven, also of Higginsville, is working out of the Higginsville location.

Both spent time working at the cooperative during a mid-school internship, and were anxious to return to WCE as full-time employees.

"I am looking forward to using the knowledge I have learned through school and on the job to be a reputable employee for WCE," DeHaven said.

Wilkinson said he is looking forward to becoming a successful journeyman lineman.

Their duties on their respective crews will be to assist the journeyman linemen in building new services, repairing outages and installing meters. Both will

continue their education and experience as they move through the ranks of apprenticeship to their goal of attaining journeyman lineman status.



Wilkinson



DeHaven

2018 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2018 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on May 17, 2018 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting Aug. 3, 2018 in Warrensburg.

District I

Walter Hutcherson
39607 E. Fricke Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-520-7759

Kyle Grumke
4246 Highway FF
Odessa, MO 64076
816-565-0276

District II

Dennis Knipmeyer
17905 Long Grove Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-2741

Paul Nolte
711 W. 35th St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-909-7285

District III

Virgina Haller
510 NE 201st Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7330

CF Hackett
754 SW 500th Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
816-732-4360

District IV

Verna Jenkins
1151 SW 1050 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
816-732-6946

Jerry Phoenix
707 NW 100 Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
816-419-6238

District V

Tim Evert
274 NW 800 Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-909-2024

**Terms will expire for District 1 director Jeremy Ahmann, District 2 director Clark Bredehoeft and District 4 director Dale Jarman. Members will elect ONE director from District 1, ONE director from District 2 and ONE director from District 4.*

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member who continuously uses cooperative energy and service at his/her permanent, primary place of residence; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) Has been an employee of the cooperative within the last three (3) years.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

WCE employees, directors are recognized for years of service



20 YEARS OF SERVICE...Those recognized for 20 years of service to the cooperative are: Front row (l-r) Eric Wegener, Pete Nelson and Billy Mackie. Back row (l-r) Kim Lewis and Laura Years.



25 YEARS OF SERVICE...Employees honored for 25 years of service to the cooperative are (l-r) Jeff Rhoades and Doug Bird.



30 YEARS OF SERVICE...Employees serving the cooperative for 30 years include (l-r) Brent Schlotzhauer and Dan Disberger.



35 YEARS OF SERVICE...WCE General Manager Mike Gray (right) is recognized by Board President Densil Allen Jr. for 35 years of service to the cooperative.



DIRECTORS HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE...Sandra Streit (left) was recognized for 5 years of service to the cooperative, and Max Swisegood was recognized for 20 years.



CERTIFIED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR...Directors Robert Simmons (left) and Richrd Strobel were honored for their completion of courses earning them the Certified Cooperative Director status.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held February 22, 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 and Jeremy Ahmann. Sandra Streit was absent. 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 Jan. 24, 2018 expenditures for the month of January 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following January 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 January.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray gave the AMEC Report for the February meeting which included updates on Rural Missouri magazine, a legislative update, a MECIP update and an AECl update.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for January. He discussed AECl updates, NW outages, financials to day, economic development and a wind farm update.

APPOINTMENT OF NW DELEGATE AND CHAIRMAN

Simmons was appointed the NW delegate and Swisegood, the alternate.

APPROVE WRITE-OFF OF 2015 BAD DEBT

Gray presented the 2015 bad debt write-offs, and the board approved the write-off of \$72,324.19.

SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES

Proposed changes to Section 3 were tabled, and recommended changes to Sections 5, 8, 11 and 19 were approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: The Spirit Trail, member concerns, Johnson County Economic Development, and update on the Operation Round-Up foundation, John & Kathryn English scholarships, an audit update, NRECA annual meeting, the Nominating Committee and potential changes to the bylaws.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • January 2018			
	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 2017
Revenue	3,296,463	3,296,463	2,813,423
Power Bill Expense	1,830,582	1,830,582	1,602,258
Opertion & Maint. Expense	228,060	228,060	220,368
Depreciation Expense	176,969	176,969	170,184
Interest Expense	83,813	83,813	105,871
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,319,424	2,319,424	2,098,681
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	715,786	715,786	438,740
Other Margins	18,254	18,254	22,180
TOTAL MARGINS	734,040	734,040	460,920

Take note: don't get lax and overlook electrical hazards

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fied the electrical appliance, tools, and cords you plan on using.

Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.

Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.

Only use extension cords properly rated for the devices you plan to plug into it.

For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.

If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker, and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.

Install ground fault circuit interrupter

(GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they are working properly.

Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.

If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

"Take some time to learn about electrical safety and share important safety tips with others," encourages Sabin.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Youth Tour, CYCLE finalists are named

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said. "The Rural Electric Youth Tour is an excellent leadership opportunity, and has directly influenced the paths of many past attendees."

Students named finalists in the in the cooperative's annual essay contest include: Odessa High School students Alexandra Osborn and Hunter Todd, Warrensburg High School students Jimmy Le and Kaylee Henry, Chilhowee High School student Haley Hunter, Crest Ridge High School students Veronica Knox, Sydney Mieser and Nathan Piper and Wellington-Napoleon High School student Jaycee Mudd. (Coverage will be published in the June 2018 issue of Electric News.)

The finalists presented their essays during an oral competition at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5 in Higginsville. The top four finalists were named West Central's delegates on the 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 8-14, 2018.

The delegates will travel with more than 100 other representatives from around the state to Washington, D.C.

where they will join approximately 1,500 other high school juniors from across the nation. While on the tour, delegates will visit several historic memorials and monuments, the Smithsonian Museums, and Arlington National Cemetery

to witness the changing of the guard ceremony. They will also have the opportunity to visit with their senators and representatives. Other activities planned include a youth conference and a cruise on the Potomac River.

Five finalists received a trip to CYCLE in Jefferson City July 18-20, 2018. Also an excellent leadership opportunity, CYCLE delegates will spend a day at the state Capitol Building, as well as learn more about the cooperative way of business and participate in various

leadership activities. CYCLE, sponsored by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, also has a history of outstanding motivational speakers which have included individuals such as Darrell Scott, father of Rachel Scott who was killed in 1999 at Columbine High School, and wheelchair basket-

2018 Youth Tour and CYCLE Finalists

Odessa High School:

- Alexandra Osborn
- Hunter Todd

Warrensburg High School:

- Jimmy Le
- Kaylee Henry

Chilhowee High School:

- Haley Hunter

Crest Ridge High School:

- Veronica Knox
- Sydney Mieser
- Nathan Piper

Wellington-Napoleon HS:

- Jaycee Mudd