



West Central Electric Cooperative

February 2019

# ElectricNews

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

## Oak Grove office will close Feb. 4 for building renovations

In an effort to better serve our members and improve facility security, renovations will begin in February at the Oak Grove office. These renovations will temporarily close this location, but members will still have a variety of ways to conduct necessary business with the cooperative, and business will carry on as normal.

"We understand this is going to be an inconvenience for our members, but the quickest and most cost-effective way

to get these renovations completed is to close the office while the work is being performed," General Manager Mike Gray said.

"Our hope is to have the office back open

by June 1 if everything goes according to plans."

Response time to outages will not be

affected, as trucks and crews will continue to be stationed for access from the Oak Grove area.

**"Our goal is to have the office back open by June 1 if everything goes according to plans."**

**--Mike Gray, General Manager**

Members needing to speak to West Central Electric

employees directly can still call 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942 to reach a representative. Bills may be paid in per-

son at the Higginsville office, by mail, online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) or by phone at 1-855-874-5349. The drive-up drop box will continue to be available at the Oak Grove location, and will be checked on a daily basis.

The last day the office will be open for normal business until renovations are complete will be Friday, Feb. 1. Septagon Construction Co. will begin renovations on the office building Feb. 4.



**CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT...**Members of the Oak Grove Middle School choir entertained those attending the monthly Oak Grove Chamber of Commerce meeting in December with Christmas songs. This was their rendition of, "Run, Run, Rudolph!"

## Stay safe on winter roads this season

Winter months can bring snow, ice, and windy conditions, which create additional hazards for drivers. Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared. Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, the decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial. SafeElectricity.org provides tips to help prepare drivers to stay safe on winter roads.

Perform regular maintenance on your car to check that batteries are charged, tires have sufficient tread, and windshield wipers are in working order. In case of an emergency, pack a kit that includes blankets, flares, a flashlight, and a window scraper. If you are stranded in your car after an accident,

watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Do not stay in one position for too long, stay awake, and do not over-exert yourself as this could put strain on your heart.

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if absolutely necessary. Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes on the road to look out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help.

**Continued on page 4**

### 2018 Member Appreciation Day winners:

#### \$25 Energy Certificates:

Christi Laing, Bates City  
Dorothy Cogan, Odessa  
Bob Lee, Oak Grove  
Vivian Jones, Bates City

Brenda Corbin, Warrensburg  
Patty Bartram, Odessa  
Ernest, Angle, Warrensburg  
Wynona France, Oak Grove

#### Willie Wiredhand Ornaments:

Fran Dorrell, Oak Grove  
Christina Broughton, Sibley

Leslie Adams, Warrensburg  
Margaret Kesinger, Warrensburg



**MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY...**Charles and Patty Bartram were two of several WCE members who stopped by the Higginsville and Oak Grove offices in December for the cooperative's annual Member Appreciation Day.



# As you start planning your move to a college dorm, also plan for safety

As high school seniors begin to finish up all those scholarship applications, the next thing on their list will be making plans for the big move to a college dorm. It's an exciting time, but one that should include safety awareness.

Students need to be equipped with supplies for their dorm rooms and important knowledge for living on their own—including electrical safety knowledge. Talking to your college students about safety can help prevent electrical fires and accidents.

"There is a tendency for college students to bring everything they own," said Pete Nelson, West Central Electric Cooperative Safety Coordinator. "The limited number of electric outlets in student rooms can tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards. In addition, young people often have less experience with cooking, and a dorm is not an ideal place to learn."

Many colleges across the U.S. ban cooking appliances from on-campus housing including: hot plates, coffee makers, and microwaves; and many of these places may already have a designated area for the use of the products. "Make sure to check ahead of time. You might not need to bring your own appliances," said Molly Hall, executive director of the Safe Electricity program.

Safe Electricity offers many safety tips for students to help prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing.

## Safety Tips

- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) publishes a list of approved testing laboratories. Some common approved safety labels include: Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and MET Laboratories (MET).

- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips, or outlets.

- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.

- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any

surface or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled or damaged.

- Use the correct wattage light bulbs for lamps and fixtures. If no indication is on the product, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. Use cooler, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.

- Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the resident assistant, camping housing staff, or landlord.

- Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.

- Always use microwave-safe containers. Glass, ceramic containers, and plastics labeled "microwave-safe" should always be used. Metal and aluminum foil can damage the microwave or start a fire. If the microwave is damaged in any way, do not use it.

- Smoke detectors should never be disabled, and fire alarms should never be ignored or taken casually as a drill. Every time a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.

Potentially older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, the appliance should be disconnected immediately and the condition reported to the landlord or campus housing staff.

Electrical fires can happen any time, so be prepared. Before choosing college housing, make sure the unit is fully-equipped with a sprinkler system and working smoke alarms, and make sure to have a fire escape plan in case of emergency.

"Stress to students that in the event of a fire follow safety procedures and get out of harm's way immediately," Nelson said. "Property and valuables can be replaced, but lives cannot."

For more fire and electrical safety information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## SCHOLARSHIPSscholars

### 2019 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

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

B. 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.

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

D. A minimum ACT score of 18 is required.

E. Participation in 4-H at the time of high school graduation is required.

F. 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.)

G. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

H. 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.

I. 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.

J. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.

K. All scholarship applications MUST BE TYPED.

L. 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 DISQUALIFIED.**

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. 22, 2019. 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. 22, 2019.

#### VII. Finalist Notification

Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 20, 2019. 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 4, 2019 by both phone and mail.

### *2019 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship*

#### **I. Amount of Scholarship**

This year, approximately 20 high school seniors will receive a \$600 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 DISQUALIFIED.**

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 15, 2019. 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@wccoop.com](mailto:heather@wccoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 15, 2019.

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

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by May 1, 2019 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 approximately 20 scholarships worth \$600 each.

The **West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship Program** provides a scholarship to a student interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at an accredited institution in Missouri, Kansas or Iowa. This scholarship provides for students a quality college training program, a degree or EDS certificate, 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.

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

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Students entering the

### **2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest**

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. February 15, 2019.

Essays submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 15, 2019.

Applications for the

### **2019 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship**

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 22, 2019.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 22, 2019.

Applications for the

### **2019 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship**

must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2019.

Applications submitted via email must arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. March 15, 2019.



**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 29, 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 general counsel Sheri Smiley and Rod Widger and WCE office staff.

### 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 October 25, 2018; expenditures for the month of October 2018; new membership applications; membership terminations.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session and adjourned from executive session to continue the meeting.

### APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following October 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, Engineering Report, Operations and Safety Report and Member Services Report. A report was also given by the Scholarship Committee and board liaison Streit provided an Operation Round-Up Report.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He gave an update on the Oak Grove facility, and said that a presentation would be given in December on the estimated costs for renovations. He also discussed the board retreat including succession planning. More information will be coming from NRECA.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Strobel discussed a potential topic for the retreat for the board to consider.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into a second executive session.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • <i>Statement of Operations</i> • October 2018			
	This month	YTD 2018	YTD 2017
Revenue	\$1,942,373	\$24,666,665	\$22,053,580
Power Bill Expense	1,292,095	14,792,448	13,309,005
Operation & Maint. Expense	744,636	5,433,531	5,055,173
Depreciation Expense	179,382	1,775,203	1,729,123
Interest Expense	119,685	1,104,609	1,065,016
Total cost of Srvcs. (Total Expense)	2,335,798	23,105,791	21,158,317
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(393,425)	1,560,874	895,263
Other Margins	34,830	330,126	282,601
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(358,595)	\$1,891,000	\$1,177,864

# Stay safe on winter roads this season

## From page 1

Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or "bunny hop" to safety. Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running

from one foot to another.

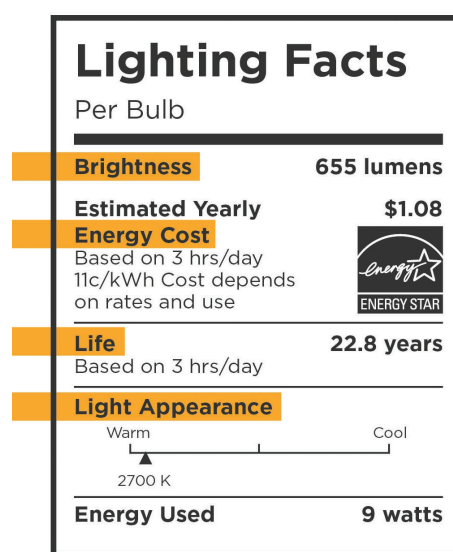
Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards. If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle. Contact 911 to have the utility notified immediately.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

## Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing light bulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



### Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all light bulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness, energy cost, life, light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

### Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25%-30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

## Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.  
*Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.*

Incandescent  
100 watt  
1,600 lumens

LED  
14 - 20 watt  
1,600 lumens