



West Central Electric Cooperative

October 2019

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# ElectricNews

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

## By the community, for the community

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including West Central Electric, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service,



or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how West Central Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. WCE's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why

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# National Cooperative Month

## Energy in Today's Classroom program stokes local teachers *Cooperative Principle #5: Education, Training and Information put into practice*

Imagine you are able to attend a two-day graduate course that earns you an hour of graduate credit from the University of Missouri-Columbia, you get to network with teachers from around the state and you get materials to take back to your classroom -- all at no cost to you.

If you are a teacher, that may sound a little too good to be true, but if you are a teacher familiar with electric cooperatives and what they do for their local communities, you know it is just par for the course.

This summer, two teachers from school districts in West Central Electric's service area, Diane Samson of Warrensburg Middle School and Patricia Iott of Chilhowee School District, were able to take advantage of just that opportunity -- and they haven't stopped smiling since.

"Energy in Today's Classroom was definitely a rewarding experience," Samson said. "Usually at a conference, there are a few things that one would not be able to apply in the classroom. I cannot say that for this program at all.

Every topic that was presented is one that I will use in the classroom, and they all bring the application of real world topics into lessons that can be easily leveled for the students' age and experiences."

Samson said information was presented in an engaging manner and gave a great picture

and understanding of electricity, energy, electric cooperatives, renewable energy, forestry, and Missouri's energy involvement.

"They were very generous to share their power points and other resources, so we may use them with our own stu-

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**—Diane Samson, 2019 participant  
Energy in Today's Classroom**



**Diane Samson (left) of Warrensburg Middle School and Patricia Iott of Chilhowee School District, attended the 2019 Energy in Today's Classroom**

dents," Samson said.

Teachers were able to visit Boone Electric Cooperative's solar arrays and took a tour of the University of Missouri's power plant.

"The tours and explanations of pro-

cesses were terrific. When my students study energy and how it's produced, I will now have first-hand knowledge and experience to describe it much better as well as being able to use the many

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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



Crews repair damage left behind during a pair of storm waves that passed through the service area in mid-August.

## August storm causes damage in two waves

A dual wave of mid-August storms caused damage to WCE's system as high winds and heavy rains brought down 28 poles and several tree limbs.

The first wave on Aug. 15 hit from Levasy through areas southeast of Odessa. Around 2,300 members

were without power and according to Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile, the cooperative's power supplier, NW Electric Power Cooperative lost five structures that feed into the Columbus Substation near Lake Lafayette.

The second wave hit Aug. 16, this

time south of Centerview towards the Burtville area. That storm resulted in around 400 members without power.

"We did call in a contractor to help reset poles to speed the process up," Burkeybile said.

### Phantoms unmasked...

## Hidden energy busters may lurk in your electronics

Are there phantoms in your house? Absolutely. But not the ghostly variety. Instead, the phantoms are the myriad electronic devices and appliances that use electricity even when they're turned off.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates phantoms on average cost U.S. households an average of \$100 a year.

G.E. Miller at [www.20somethingfinance.com/electrical](http://www.20somethingfinance.com/electrical) points out that phantom load, vampire load, vampire power, standby

power and electricity leaking are all one and the same. They describe the energy your TV, VCR, DVD and CD players, computer, printer, microwave, phone and many other electronics use when turned off but plugged into a wall outlet. Here are some facts:

- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory says energy vampires use 5 percent of our domestic energy and cost consumers more than \$3 billion annually

- The U.S. Department of Energy

says on average, 75 percent of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off

- According to ENERGY STAR, electronics constitute about 14 percent and more of your home energy use in contrast to 5 percent 25 years ago

- TVs alone consume about 4 percent of residential electricity nationwide — the equivalent of all the electricity used by households in New York state,

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## Electric co-ops: by the community, for the community

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we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations like Missouri Valley Community Action Agency, area chambers of commerce and senior centers, 4-H and FFA organizations, schools and many more groups to support programs that make life better for our community members and their families. We participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of WCE as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you — because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.*



# Energy in Today's Classroom program stokes local teachers

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ample resources given for hands-on activities," she said. "A fun, hands-on activity we were able to do was to wire a light fixture to a light switch. I'd never done that before. It was very rewarding to be able to successfully do that," Samson said.

Samson has plans for a similar project with her STEM class.

"I'm considering having them design



Diane Samson of Warrensburg Middle School participates in the MU power plant tour.

a 2-3 room house out of shoe box in which they would wire the rooms and have to insulate them," she said. "Science Journal with Google is an app that can measure light, so they could use its sensor to have quantitative data for how well insulated it was. They would then redesign to improve the insulation."

Samson said she has many lesson ideas & activities in mind for her students, and she said she is looking forward to sharing the wealth of information provided in the Energy in Today's Classroom program with others at her school and especially with her science teacher partner.

Participants in the program also receive supplies to take back to their classrooms to use with lessons for their students.

"We also received a treasure trove of books, science hands-on supplies (hand generator, solar kit, etc.), a slice of a power line, an insulator, and many more things - all so very generous of the Cooperatives to give us," she said.

Samson said she was thankful for the experience and what it will mean to her students when she has the chance to start implementing what she learned in her own classroom.

"Energy in Today's Classroom was incredible," she said. "I met to the



Participants in the 2019 Energy in Today's Classroom program tour the University of Missouri-Columbia's power plant.

amazing planners and presenters, it all was top-notch. Meeting other educators enhanced the experience as well. Being able to share experiences with them and learn from them was another wonderful facet of this program. I surely enjoyed meeting Patricia and visiting. And the

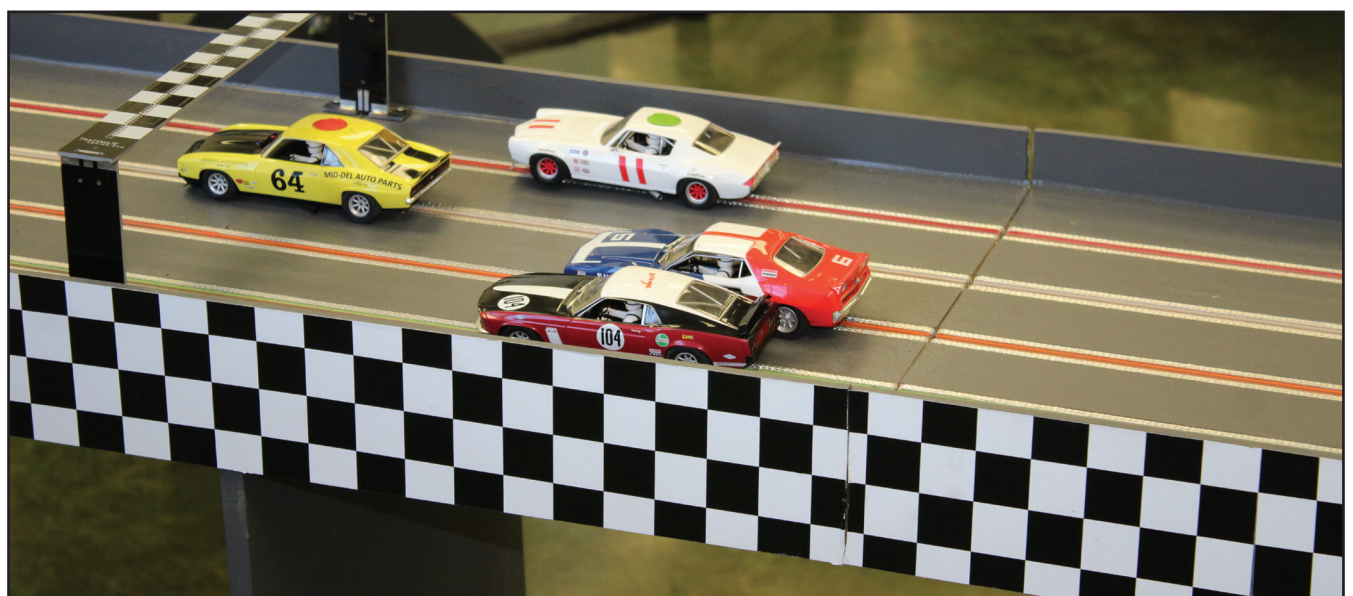
opportunity to earn graduate credit was most appreciated.

"I have been incredibly blessed from this experience and my students will be, too. I can't thank you enough for this wonderful opportunity. It was the best," she said.

## 2019 Missouri State Fair



OFF TO THE RACES...The race was on for visitors to the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the 2019 Missouri State Fair. One of the hottest attractions in the building this year was electric car races with participants generating the electricity to power their own race car around a track. Above, young Lafayette County co-op members (l-r) Laney Garland, Bg Tyler, Kale Garland and Chloe Tyler do their best to get out ahead of the pack during their race. Laney and Kale are the daughters of Devin and Melissa Garland and Bg and Chloe are the daughters of Jeff and Stephanie Tyler.





From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 25, 2019

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, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Sandra Streit. Dale Jarman was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Lori Battern 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 June 27, 2019 expenditures for the month of June 2019; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following February 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the June 2019 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales. He discussed line loss calculations and sales comparisons year-to-date. Mr. Newland also reported on the audit of West Central being performed by Jackson Thornton for 2019. The engagement letter for the audit with Jackson Thornton to include the foundation was presented to the board for consideration. Discussion was had on the source of payment for the audit for the foundation, which will be further discussed at a future date.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile gave the operations report and discussed crew work and outages in June. He also gave the safety report and discussed safety meetings, crew visits, and travel which has occurred without incident. Strobel reported on a request to move a pole due to motor vehicle collisions in the area. Discussion was had related to the request and the possible placement of a guard rail.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger gave the engineering report. He reported on new services, change services, problem areas and brush clearing, outages, and inspections. He reported on right of way crews. He gave a staking report. He reported that Apex, brush spraying contractor, had begun work on 450 miles to be completed within 8 days.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the member services report. He included a report on Operation Round Up, scholarships, and preparation for the annual meeting. He provided an electric car update. Schlotzhauer reported on a letter from the Attorney General's office regarding a member complaint. West Central provided a response to the Attorney General indicating that the matter was handled consistently with West Central's policies for accounts which are past due.

APPOINTMENT OF REGION 8-10 MEETING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Streit was appointed as the Region 8-10 Meeting delegate with Jarman as the alternate.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW report for June. He discussed AECl updates, outages, the solar and wind report, safety report, and margins and expenses.

DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE REPORT

Simmons reported on the Directors' Conference. Discussions were had on the speakers and topics presented.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included an update on the Oak Grove building construction. He reported on the CFC Forum. Discussion was had on having more detailed safety reports to be presented quarterly. He also led the discussion on the upcoming annual meeting. Discussion was had and copies of the handouts and surveys for the meeting were provided.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Streit reported on the Operation Round Up group meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • June 2019

	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$2,071,733	\$14,901,388	\$15,381,122
Power Bill Expense	1,376,569	8,922,842	9,105,967
Opertion & Maint. Expense	651,716	3,757,309	3,059,287
Depreciation Expense	184,596	1,093,210	1,060,018
Interest Expense	114,196	704,061	630,086
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,327,077	14,477,422	13,855,358
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(255,344)	423,966	1,525,764
Other Margins	12,941	148,115	86,522
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(242,403)	\$572,081	\$1,612,286

Phantoms unmasked; hidden energy busters may lurk in your electronics

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says ENERGY STAR.

How do you know a phantom is in your house? Look no further than equipment or a charging device with a cube-shaped transformer on the end of its cord. Depending on the product, it's sipping or sucking electricity even when not in use. The best advice for ridding your house of phantoms is to:

Unplug – If you're not using it, and it's not essential to be connected to

function (such as a clock), then pull the plug, and save energy.

Use power strips – Make it easy on yourself and consolidate plug-ins into a single power strip with an on/off switch. One switch to OFF prevents power from being used.

Buy efficient – When you're looking for new equipment, pay attention to energy-saving features. Buy Energy Star-rated equipment, whose phantom use will be less.

If you plant this fall follow some rules

Follow the 10-ft. rule when planting trees and shrubs, call 811 before digging

Fall is the perfect time to plant a tree that next summer will begin to provide welcome shade. Trees not only suck carbon dioxide from the air, but they also can reduce your energy bills, particularly in cooling your house.

In fact, a 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree near your home will begin shading windows the first year and the roof in 5 to 10 years. Temperatures under a tree can be as much as 25 degrees cooler than a nearby blacktop. Every home deserves a shade tree!

The U.S. Department of Energy emphasizes that trees will help in maximizing shade in summer, deflecting winter winds, funneling summer breezes and utilizing passive solar energy in the winter when the leaves are off the trees.

Here are tips from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and other sources on landscaping to cool and shelter:

- Plant deciduous trees with high crowns, such as oaks and maples, and tall shrubs, such as privet hedge, on the east and southwest to block morning or afternoon heat buildup, and plant trees with lower crowns, such as dogwoods and crabapples on the west to block low-angle afternoon rays; plant evergreens if you want continuous shade

- Plant trees and shrubs to channel cooling breezes into the house or across a shaded patio; keep lower limbs pruned up to allow breezes to pass underneath

shade trees

- While young trees are growing, plant quick-growing vines, such as wisteria and honeysuckle, to climb on trellises and arbors

- If your house lacks a roof overhang on the south, plant deciduous trees and shrubs to shade south walls in summer; however for year-round energy efficiency, leave the south side of the house unshaded, since in winter, trees without leaves can still block as much as 60 percent of the sun

- Plant trees that will become large at least 20 feet from a house and smaller trees or those with columnar shapes at 15 feet or closer, according to the University of Missouri Extension

- Reduce the "heat island" effect around your home with pervious paving, light-colored paving materials, shade, less pavement, organic mulches (instead of rock or gravel) and water-efficient turf grass; an unshaded concrete driveway can be as much as 35 degrees warmer than surrounding lawn

- Shade your air conditioner or exterior heat pump: efficiency will improve by as much as 10 percent; plant no closer than 3 feet, so there's plenty of air flow to the unit

- To block hot summer winds, plant a windbreak on the windward side of your house, usually southwest or west; to block winter winds, plant a windbreak on the north or northwest

Of course, when planting, choose sites away from power lines both overhead and underground. Contact West Central Electric at 800-491-3803 for specific planting guidance.



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