



1939 - 2019
80 years of service

West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2019

Electric News

Special Annual Meeting Issue!

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

WCE 80th Annual Meeting Aug. 2, 2019

UCM Multipurpose Building
500 S. Washington St.
Warrensburg, Mo.

Evening Schedule:

5:00 p.m.

- ◆ Registration begins. All registered members will receive a \$25 energy credit. Must be present to receive.
- ◆ Old-fashioned co-op barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, chips and cookies, tea & lemonade. Meals will be served to the first 1,300 members and guests in attendance.
- ◆ Informational booths and displays open at east end of Multi.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- ◆ Swimming for the kids in the Multipurpose Building indoor pool

6:45 p.m.

- ◆ Abby Fowler, Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C.

6:50 p.m.

- ◆ Introduction of West Central Electric and John & Kathryn English scholars

7:00 p.m.

- ◆ Business Meeting -- approval of minutes (located on page 2), reports of business and election of directors (profiles on page 3.)

PRIZE DRAWINGS:

- ◆ 40" Vizio D-Series SmartTV donated by NW Electric
- ◆ \$25, \$50, \$100 energy certificates
- ◆ One month FREE electricity! (Residential account only, applies to the bill due in September)
- ◆ Kids' prizes: girl's and boy's bike with helmets, stuffed Buddy Bear mascots and more!

INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS:

- ◆ Kids' Safety Area with giveaways, safety demonstrations, and meet Rural Missouri's Buddy Bear
- ◆ Health screenings from Johnson County Community Health Services
- ◆ Meet the WCE linemen
- ◆ Glaucoma & macular degeneration screenings by Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- ◆ Operation Round Up booth to learn more about this new co-op program
- ◆ Take Control and Save energy-efficiency booth & more!

Business Meeting begins at 7 p.m.



Photos clockwise from top left: One of WCE's earliest boards of directors (1955) Seated (l-r) August Bertz, Morris Evans, John English, Lee Wulfekammer, Otto Hinck. Standing (l-r) William Redford, Paul Phipps, Palmore Greer, William Aull and Francis Payton; 1980 lineman school attendee Doug Bayless; WCE Journeyman Lineman Scott Gard; Current WCE board members (clockwise from left) Densil Allen Jr., Jeremy Ahmann, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Manager Mike Gray, Max Swisegood, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit and Robert Simmons.

We strive for different

It takes a lot for a business to remain strong for 80 years. But maybe the reason your electric cooperative is still going strong is because we don't look at ourselves as just another business. Actually, we pride ourselves on the fact that we strive every day to be **deliberately different**.

Of course the main thing that sets us apart from other forms of business is that electric cooperatives are not-for-profit and member-owned. But it is more than that. Our mission is to focus on enhancing the quality of life for members not only by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but also by supporting the communities in which they live and the organizations to which

they belong. We support schools and youth groups like 4-H and FFA. We provide opportunities for our young, future members to get an education, and broaden their horizons by visiting our state's and nation's capitals.

We help organizations such as local food pantries and utility assistance organizations. We offer energy efficiency information and preach energy conservation so members can reduce the cost of their electric bills, and we return profits to our local members, not to some shareholders in a faraway city or country.

Yes, we are a local, rural electric cooperative. We have been **deliberately different** for 80 years -- and we plan to keep it that way.

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.*

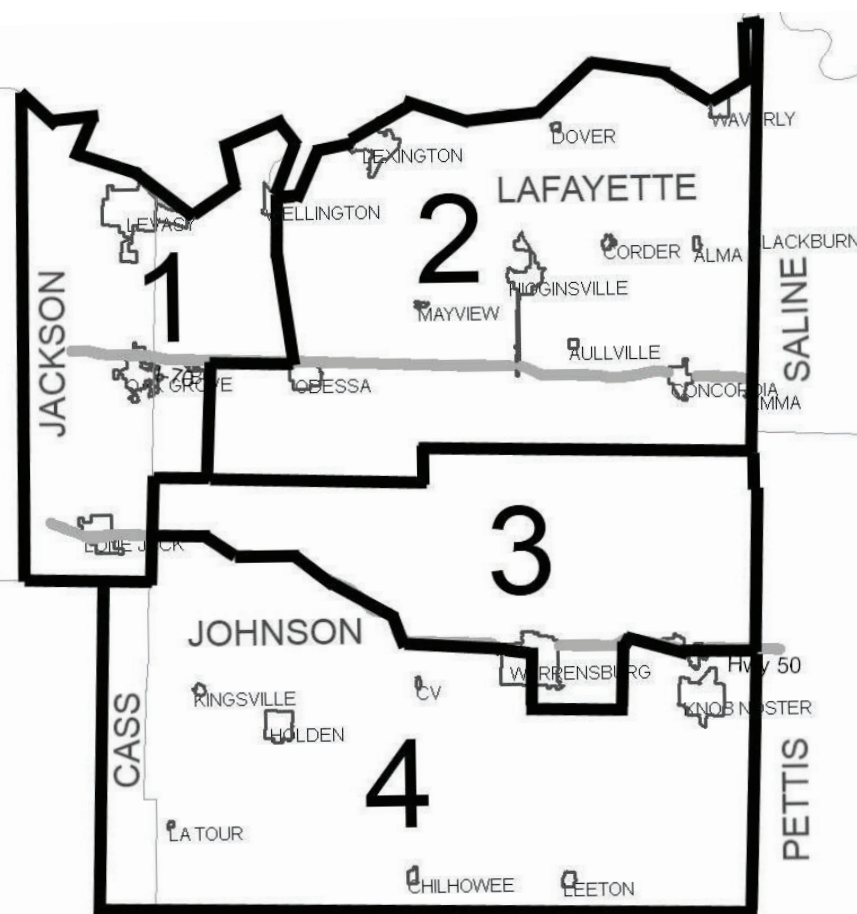
Board of Directors:
Densil Allen, Jr. President
Clark Bredehoeft, Vice-Pres.
Dale Jarman, Treasurer
Robert Simmons, Secretary
Stan Rhodes, Asst. Sect.
Max Swisegood, Director
Richard Strobel, Director
Sandra Streit, Director
Jeremy Ahmann, Director



2019 West Central Electric Nominating Committee

The West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met in May to nominate candidates for the 2019 board of directors election. The committee consists of the following active WCE members: Front row (l-r): Virginia Haller, Dennis Knipmeyer, Verna Jenkins and Stephanie Othic. Back row (l-r) Paul Nolte, Kyle Grumke, William Grauberger, Jeremy Sanders and Donald Fore.

West Central Electric Cooperative DISTRICT MAP



LEGEND
County lines ———
District boundaries ———

**District 5 is an "At-Large" district, and therefore encompasses the entire service area.*

2019 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting of members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, August 2, 2019 on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg

The meeting will feature:

1. The report of officers, directors and committees,
2. The election of **ONE** director each from District 1, District 2 and District 4 to serve until the third succeeding annual meeting of the members, or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. The following members have been nominated for directors:

District 1
Max Swisegood, Oak Grove, Mo.

District 2
Stan Rhodes, Corder, Mo.

District 4
Sandra Streit, Holden, Mo.

4. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Robert D. Simmons

Robert Simmons, Secretary
July 8, 2019



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members, August 3, 2018

To be approved at August 2, 2019 Annual Meeting of Members

The 79th Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Cooperative"), was held at the Multipurpose Building on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Johnson County, State of Missouri, on Friday, August 3, 2018, pursuant to the bylaws of the Cooperative and notice to membership.

Registration began at 5:00 p.m. and a meal was served.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business session was called to order by Densil Allen, Jr., President of the Cooperative, at 7:00 pm. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept.

Youth Tour Representative Jaycee Mudd led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Linda Strobel sang the National Anthem. A prayer of invocation was offered by Director Richard Strobel.

President Allen introduced special guests in attendance at the meeting and the Board of Directors.

The President called on Attorney Sheri Smiley to verify the presence of a quorum. Ms. Smiley reported that the quorum formula required the presence of 139 members and 630 members were registered at 6:30 p.m. It was therefore ordered that a quorum was established for the transaction

of business.

Ms. Smiley presented the Agenda of the meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the Agenda was adopted as printed.

Secretary Simmons presented the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to waive the reading of the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. He referred attention to the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting printed in the July issue of West Central Electric News with the Notice of Meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes as printed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen presented the President's Report recounting the business and activities of the Cooperative since the last annual meeting.

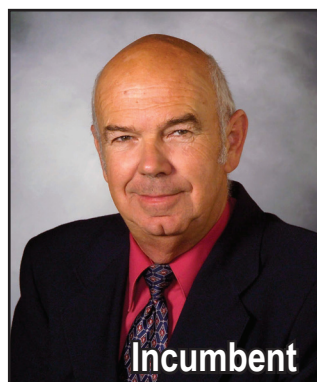
TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dale Jarman presented Treasurer's Report. He directed attention to the financial information contained in the meeting program that was drawn from the audited records of the Cooperative. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Continued on page 4

West Central Electric Cooperative • 2019 Board of Directors Candidates

District 1



Max Swisegood
Oak Grove, Mo.

Occupation: Mechanic, crop farmer, raise Black Angus cattle

Family: wife, Verna; daughter Shelly and husband, Brad; two grandsons; two step-daughters: Lana Crawford and Tisha Cole; three step-sons: Darrin and Clint Cole and John Crawford; eight step-grandsons and two step-granddaughters

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Missouri Tractor Pullers Association for 38 years -- president and vice president for 35 years; Odessa Water Board; WCE board, Jackson County director, 20 years; Farm Bureau; Baptist Church of Oak Grove.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? In the past years, I have learned from our cooperative members that they don't always understand the need for changes made by our board members. Our board has the obligation to keep our cooperative members informed of the reasons for improvements made or not made. Change is slow, but progress is being made. Our cooperative needs to be more effective in our communications. As a director, I want to make the right decisions for all of our cooperative members.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I would like to maintain the work ethics of our cooperative by encouraging the board to make the right decision for the cooperative. We need to keep the rates as low as possible, but make improvements and changes as needed for efficient services. I am proud our board encourages the repair work to be done as soon as possible. I want to encourage the board to look at all options and make decisions that are best for the cooperative.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Our main problem has always been government regulations. Therefore, as members of the board, we need to keep our senators and representatives informed to the changes made at their level that affect our cooperative. We have solar power now as an alternate energy. We need to keep pace with that change. I know the overhead expenses of owning and operating farms and a business. The struggle for improvement never stops.

Additional comments: Serving on the West Central board for the past 20 years has been a privilege. I want to say thank you for your past support and would appreciate your continued support for re-election.

District 2



Stan Rhodes
Corder, Mo.

Occupation: Farmer

Family: Married to Vicky; two daughters: Maddie and husband, Dane, and Bailey and husband, Atticus; three sons: Spencer, Mason and wife, Missy, and Beau and wife, Katie; seven grandchildren: Marley, Roman, Ian, Ellie, Dax, Emmy and Laurel

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Corn Growers Association, Corder Lions Club, John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee and West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship Committee

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? Serving on the board the past nine years has been a very enjoyable and educational experience. I have the time and will work to keep our cooperative running efficiently.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? My goals for the next three years are to continue to learn more about the electricity business, keep rates as low as possible, and help the cooperative maintain and improve the reliable service we expect as members.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Environmental issues and government regulations are always concerns that cooperatives have to deal with and adjust to. Eliminating or even reducing the amount of coal we use for generation will have an effect on our wholesale costs and keeping our members' electric bills affordable.

Additional comments: I want to thank all the members for their past support, and I look forward to serving the cooperative in the future.

District 4



Sandra Streit
Holden, Mo.

Occupation: Sales manager for Tri-Meats, Inc, an international meat and poultry sales and processing company

Family: Married to Marshall Streit, FFA Advisor and Agricultural Education Instructor at Cass Career Center; one daughter, Rylee, a senior at S. Dakota State University and one son, Garrett, a sophomore at Northeast Oklahoma A&M

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Johnson County Extension Council Chairperson, Holden FFA Alumni member, Holden Senior Center volunteer, WCE board liaison to WCEF We are active members in the Palomino Horse Breeders Association,

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? I find it rewarding and important to be involved in the community. We, as a board, seek to position the co-op for the future energy marketplace. This is an ever-evolving task, one I wish to continue to work toward. I tend to be analytical and very open in generating ideas as well as listening to other ideas. Staying open to change and new solutions is very important for our business. We don't always have to sit back and watch what others do. We need to be strong in our objectives with WCE, delivering quality electric service at the best value to our members, in addition to supporting the causes and struggles of our members.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? Creating an environment suitable for maintaining our cooperative's service goals is very important to me. As a distribution co-op, generation of electricity is not our job. We are here to serve the membership. How to best balance new technologies with member needs is a top priority. Broadband internet service and renewable energy sources are on the minds of members. As a board member, it is my responsibility to balance those interests with the costs bore by all.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? I am not sure this will ever change in my lifetime--natural resources, their sourcing and regulation is what I believe to be our biggest issue; whether it be the harvest of coal or the best way to address the desire for renewables. This is a long-term business, with many layers of comprehension. Addressing energy generation with narrow vision is not reasonable. We have to find balance, while constantly pushing our industry to work smarter; challenge the norm, but respect the knowledge we have gained from those same past experiences.

Additional comments: Being a part of this organization has been a very rewarding experience. Often times it is complicated conversations with many points of view. It is challenging, but very rewarding when as a board, we come together for the best of the cooperative.

MAIL-IN BALLOT PROCEDURES

Members who are unable to attend the 80th annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 2, may still participate in the board of directors election by mail-in ballot.

- You must submit a request for a voting packet either by calling the office and requesting a packet to be sent to you, or by mailing in the form that was included with your June bills.

- All requested ballots will be mailed to members after July 8, 2019.

- Once you receive your voting packet, you may cast your vote and follow the instructions to send the ballots to the cooperative's attorney.

- Marked ballots must arrive NO LATER THAN Aug. 1, 2019 at the cooperative attorney's office in order to have the votes included in the count.

- Members who are able to attend the meeting may still vote in person at the meeting and do not have to submit a mail-in ballot.

Questions regarding the mail-in voting procedures may be directed to Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Following is the bylaw article which allows voting by mail-in ballot:

Article III

Meetings of Members

Section 5. Voting

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, or by mail-in ballot, in addition to those voting by any other lawful means established by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of said meeting and specified in the notice of the meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws.

Section 6. Proxies

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

From the Boardroom...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 19, 2019

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, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Densil Allen Jr. was absent. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Sheri Smiley and WCE staff members.

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 March 28, 2019 expenditures for the month of March 2019; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Gray presented the March 2019 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial Statistical Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report, and 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 as well as giving the Treasurer's report.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger gave the engineering report which included a report on construction, retirement, maintenance and operations. He reported on new services, outages, pole change outs and maintenance as well as right-of-way crews. He gave a staking report and reported on a new safety feature that had been installed for the office staff.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile gave the operations and safety report. He discussed crew work and outages in March. He gave the Construction Retirement, Maintenance and Operations Report and discussed new services built. He provided the safety report including safety meetings, crew visits and training for the month for employees. He gave an update on the Altec trucks and a recent recall.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer gave the member services report. He included a report on Operation Round Up and Youth Tour. He reported on energy audits and gave the net metering report. He also gave an update on rebates and changes effective April 1.

NW REPORT

Swisegood gave the NW report for April. He reported on the election of officers to the NW board, discussed AECL updates, outages, the solar and wind report and margins and expenses. He gave an update on the floods and damage done to NW substations. Gray reported on the NW Annual Meeting.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the AMEC report on the meeting he attended. He discussed the bylaw changes and the one bylaw change that was tabled. He gave an update on MECIP and NRECA.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman gave the scholarship committee report. He reported that there were 23 applicants and a total of \$17,250 was given in scholarships. A discussion was held regarding criteria for eligibility.

OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Streit gave the Operation Roundup Report and reported on the April meeting. She reported on who had been awarded grants.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray led the discussion on the current meeting plans. A discussion was held regarding the mail in ballots and the bill credits given.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included the 2019 Member Satisfaction Triennial Survey Report. He discussed upcoming conferences and reported that Toth would be at the Co-op in May to present the results on their rate study. He also gave an update on the Oak Grove building.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2019

	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$2,751,050	\$8,927,466	\$8,702,723
Power Bill Expense	1,557,350	5,040,899	4,886,323
Operation & Maint. Expense	662,191	2,050,493	1,515,039
Depreciation Expense	181,697	542,618	529,268
Interest Expense	118,866	344,989	308,727
Total cost of Srvcs. (Total Expense)	2,520,104	7,978,999	7,239,357
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	230,946	948,467	1,463,366
Other Margins	39,744	92,621	60,271
TOTAL MARGINS	\$270,690	\$1,041,088	\$1,523,637

Memo on seasonal connections...

Members requesting seasonal connections on meters for wells, irrigation systems, etc. are asked to have either the map number or pole number available when they call in. Having one of these pieces of information will help cooperative employees ensure the right meter is being connected at your location. Please direct any questions to WCE at 816-565-4942 or 800-491-3803.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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From page 2

DIRECTOR ELECTION

President Allen called on Dennis Knipmeyer to present the report of the director Nominating Committee. Mr. Knipmeyer affirmed that the committee nominated Jeremy Ahmann from District 1, Clark Bredehoeft from District 2 and Dale Jarman from District 4.

Ms. Smiley conducted the election of Directors. She noted that there were no nominations received by petition. She noted that since there were single candidates from all three districts that it was appropriate to elect Mr. Ahmann, Mr. Bredehoeft and Mr. Jarman by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Jeremy Ahmann from

District 1, Mr. Bredehoeft from District 2 and Mr. Jarman from District 4

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Mike Gray presented the Manager's Report updating the membership on operations, maintenance, finances, right-of-way maintenance programs, and storm outages.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Smiley asked for any unfinished or new business. There was one member comment to consider doing something special in 2019 to commemorate the Cooperative's 80th anniversary.

On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership meeting was adjourned.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes.

Map to UCM Multipurpose Building

