



West Central Electric Cooperative

JULY 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews



Providing
stability in
unstable times.

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Cooperative will return
\$1.7 million in capital
credit refunds to members
this year

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Decision is made to cancel
annual meeting in light of
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safety of members

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Lighting costs are easy to
cut with today's technology;
lighting tip: go LED

• ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 •

Cooperative will return \$1.7 million in capital credits to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return \$1.7 million to its members in capital credits refunds in July, according to WCE CFO Michael Newland.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in August for all active members. A check will be mailed to non-members the first part of July.

“Our board of directors decided to do things differently this year by retiring the most recent year’s capital credits in order to try and help out more of our current members during this COVID-19 crisis,” WCE Board President Densil Allen Jr. said. “Our goal was to get returns in as many members’ hands as possible to help with financial burdens they may be facing at this time.”

If you purchased electricity from the cooperative during 2019 you should receive a check or credit. Checks will not be issued for amounts under \$5.00.

“If a member is on our level payment program, the credit will not affect their monthly amount due,” Newland said. “The credit will be applied to the balance on the account.

“If a member has multiple accounts, the credits will be applied based on the previous month’s bill; largest balance first, then the next until fully applied. If there are no current balances on the account, the credit will be applied to the primary account, the account that West Central has determined as holding the main membership,” he said.

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.

Capital Credits refunded in 2020

Capital credits will appear as a credit to your electric account on your **August** billing.

Credits being distributed this year:

56.0% of cooperative allocations for 2019

If you were were a member of the cooperative during this year, you should receive a refund.

Please direct capital credits questions to Michael Newland in the Higginsville office: 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Headquarters:

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-874-5349

To report outages 24/7:

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803 • or report outages at www.westcentralelectric.coop under “View & Report Outages”

District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop

General Manager:

Mike Gray

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*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ON THE COVER: WCE Lineman Nathan Johnson at work for our members. In order to keep members and employees safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, office lobbies were closed, and linemen altered their work procedures in order to continue to provide safe and reliable service.

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.

SAFETY FIRST!

In auto accidents involving power poles, it’s almost always safest to stay inside the vehicle. Call for help and wait for utility crews to arrive, or you could become an additional victim in need of rescue.



Annual meeting cancelled

In an effort to keep our members safe and adhere to social distancing guidelines, West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors made the decision during their May 28 meeting to cancel the 2020 annual meeting.

"We felt that it was in the best interest of our members and employees not to try and bring such a large group together when there was no business to be conducted other than the election of directors," General Manager Mike Gray said.

The directors election will still take place, but will be done entirely by mail-in ballot. Details on the voting process will be included in members' billing statements.

"These are unprecedented times, and nothing like we have ever had

to address, but we felt this was the right decision for the safety of our members and employees," Gray said.

Members will still receive the traditional Manager's Report and President's Report as well as financial information via the August edition of West Central Electric News.

"Many things have been different over the past few months, with numerous important events being cancelled from high school and college graduation ceremonies to professional sporting events," Gray said. "While we are disappointed to have to cancel this year, your cooperative will continue to work hard for our members, and we will enjoy it even more when we can meet again next year."

2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Members of the 2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met via conference call on May 13, 2020 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees were the current slate of incumbents with terms expiring: District 3 -- Richard Strobel and Robert Simmons, and District 5 -- Densil Allen Jr.

Members of the 2020 WCE Nominating Committee included:

District I

Donald Fore
Adam Heater

District II

Dennis Knipmeyer
Paul Nolte

District III

Virginia Haller
Jeremy Sanders

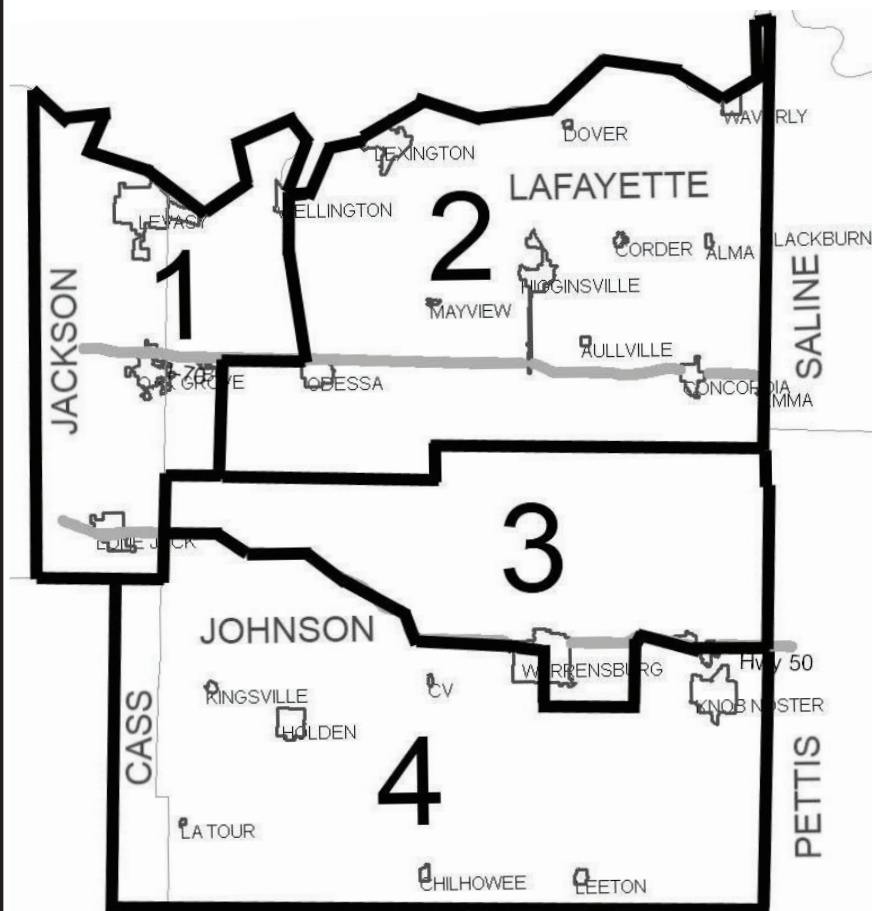
District IV

Verna Jenkins
William Grauberger

District V

Stephanie Othic

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.*

DISTRICT

3

Candidate

Robert Simmons

Warrensburg, Mo.



Occupation: Retired banker

Family: Wife, Georgia; daughters Rachel and Brooke, and two granddaughters.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Mount Tabor United Methodist Church, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency Board, Mid-Missouri Tractor Club, Vice President of Veterans Assistance League

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I feel West Central Electric offers affordable electricity and excellent service. I feel the employees do an excellent job taking care of the members and keeping the lights on. It is a privilege to serve on the board of directors.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? Trying to keep the cost of electric service to the members as inexpensive as possible, and trying to develop more efficient ways for the cooperative to operate.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? The biggest issue I feel facing cooperatives today is the regulations that are being imposed by the federal government that affect the cost of power to the consumer. I feel it is important to work together with other cooperatives to deal with this issue, as well as developing alternative power solutions.

Additional comments: I have enjoyed serving on the board of directors these past years, and would like to continue to do so.

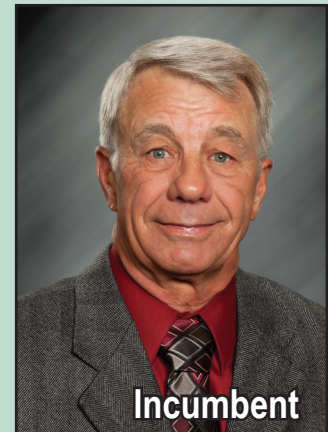
DISTRICT

3

Candidate

Richard Strobel

Concordia, Mo.



Occupation: Farmer

Family: Wife: Linda; Children: Amanda, Christina & David; Grandsons: Tyler, 16; Tanner, 8 & Ethan, 5; Granddaughters: Olivia, 7 & Claire, 3.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 16-year member of Transportation Advisory Council which works with MoDot for future planning; Member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Member of American Legion Post 258; Member and past commander of VFW Post 5649. One of my passions is my duty as commander of the Concordia Veterans Honor Guard through which we show honor to deceased veterans at their funerals and on national holidays. I have been the commander for the past 19 years, and one of the most gratifying experiences is to fold and present the flag to the grateful families, and fire a 21-gun salute.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I have very much enjoyed the last nine years as a board member of WCE. Working for the membership to improve their service has given me a great deal of pride. There is still much work to do.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I believe the board should continue to work together for the good of the entire membership. I intend to have as much input into decision-making as possible. I further believe the health and safety of our linemen should be our greatest concern. I have said before, our employees are our greatest asset. Our outside workers only number 19, yet after a storm many of you have witnessed their amazing work ethic.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? The cost of doing business including equipment, maintenance, labor and insurance are always on the increase. Our number-one concern is keeping rates low for our members. While technology has allowed household appliances to become more energy efficient, this has allowed kilowatt usage to decrease. This, however, has resulted in margins narrowing creating less income for the co-op. We must continue to be watchful and curb expenses where possible.

Additional comments: I have always believed most members are happy if they turn on their light switch and lights come on and stay on. Electricity is safe, affordable with rates near 10 cents per kilowatt, and reliable with brush removed from most all power lines.

Cooperative • 2020 Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT

5

Candidate

Densil Allen, Jr.
Knob Noster, Mo.



Occupation: Currently own a commercial cow/calf operation & working with Davis & Bell Auction Service

Family: Wife, Cyndi; Son Shawn Allen and wife Bess, grandchildren Harper and Boone Allen; daughter Angie Allen Ruddock, grandchildren Reagan (Bryce) O' Donnell and Kate Ruddock; daughter Emma Allen.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Attend Warrensburg Northside Christian Church; member of Missouri Cattlemen Association; board member of Central Bank, Warrensburg; member of Advisory Board of Warrensburg FFA, member of the Johnson County Law Enforcement Restitution Board.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I have enjoyed serving the members of West Central Electric for the past nine years. We have a strong board that is dedicated to the members, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? To use the knowledge gained from conferences to provide our members of West Central Electric with a reliable and affordable source of electric power.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? One of the biggest issues continues to be the uncertainty of government regulations. As a board, we must strive to keep pace with new developments that will help us meet our members current and future energy needs. Part of meeting these needs will be integrating the use of alternative energy sources to supplement our power supply. It is important to make sure our government officials are aware of how regulation changes can have an impact on our power supply and members. It is also important we keep our members informed on any issues that could impact their cost of electricity.

Additional comments: I look forward to having the opportunity to continue serving the members of our cooperative.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members, August 2, 2019

The 80th 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 2, 2019, 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 pm. Robert Simmons, Secretary of the Cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept.

Youth Tour representative Abby Fowler led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Emma Allen 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. Smiley reported that the quorum formula required the presence of 141 members and 755 members were registered at 6:30 p.m. It was therefore ordered that a quorum was established for the transaction of business.

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

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 2018 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 2018 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.

DIRECTOR ELECTION

Allen called on Paul Nolte to present the report of the director Nominating Committee. Nolte affirmed that the committee nominated Max Swisegood from District 1, Stan Rhodes from District 2 and Sandra Streit from District 4.

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 Swisegood, Rhodes and Streit by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Swisegood from District 1, Rhodes from District 2 and Streit 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

Smiley asked for any unfinished or new business. There was one new or unfinished business brought forth.

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes.

Lighting tip: go LED

Lighting costs are easy to cut with today's technology

Nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, lighting accounts for about 10 percent of home electricity use. It's easy to pare that down. For example, about 90 percent of the power traditional incandescent lightbulbs use is wasted on heat. That's throwing dollars away!

Instead, buy light-emitting diode bulbs. LEDs have become the lightbulb of choice because they have long lives, are the most efficient type of bulb available and are available in many designs. Ditch the incandescents and go LED.

Compare bulbs using Lighting Facts label

With all the lighting choices and changes, choosing the right bulb for an application can be frustrating. The Federal Trade Commission has simplified the process by requiring all lightbulb packaging to carry a Lighting Facts label to help you compare bulbs. The label includes:

- Brightness, measured in lumens — In the past, we bought bulbs based on how much energy (watts) they used. Today we buy them based on how much light they provide. When shopping and comparing bulbs, look at the lumens. The higher the number of lumens, the brighter the bulb.

- Estimated yearly energy cost
- Lifespan — based on how long it takes for the bulb to slowly dim or burn out running 3.5 hours a day
- Light appearance, measured by correlated color temperature (CCT) on the Kelvin (K) scale, from warm to cool

If you're replacing an inefficient 100-watt bulb, look for an energy-saving bulb that puts out about 1,600 lumens. To replace a 60-watt equivalent, look for a bulb with about 800 lumens.

Lighting Facts

These estimates based on 3 hrs/day and 11¢/kWh.
Your cost depends on your use and rates.

Brightness

870
lumens

Energy Cost

\$1.57
per year

Life

5.5
years

Why ENERGY STAR bulbs?

With all the lighting choices and changes, choosing the right bulb for an application can be frustrating. The Federal Trade Commission has simplified the process by requiring all lightbulb packaging to carry a Lighting Facts label to help you compare bulbs. The label includes:

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- Estimated yearly energy cost
- Lifespan — based on how long it takes for the bulb to slowly dim or burn out running 3.5 hours a day
- Light appearance, measured by correlated color temperature (CCT) on the Kelvin (K) scale, from warm to cool

If you're replacing an inefficient 100-watt bulb, look for an energy-saving bulb that puts out about 1,600 lumens. To replace a 60-watt equivalent, look for a bulb with about 800 lumens.



21st century lighting explained...

Energy-saving incandescent bulbs, also known as halogens, have replaced the old incandescent, along with compact fluorescent lamps and light-emitting diodes. Here's a short look at each:

Halogens — They can last up to three times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs and come in a wide range of shapes and colors. They also can be used with dimmers.

CFLs — An ENERGY STAR CFL uses about 25 percent of the energy and lasts 10 times longer than a comparable traditional incandescent bulb. CFLs come in a variety of brightness and color options, and some come in a similar shape to traditional incandescent. They do contain a small amount of mercury and require special handling if broken. Always recycle used CFLs.

LEDs — They have become the lightbulb of choice in many applications. ENERGY STAR LEDs use about 25 percent of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescents. Their light quality is like traditional incandescents, and they don't contain mercury like CFLs. LEDs can be used for standard screw-in applications, as well as recessed downlights, desk lamps, kitchen undercabinet lighting and outdoor area lights.

Get ready for smart lighting, lots of features available

You may already be using smart lighting in your home, but if not, it's already available.

According to ENERGY STAR, it can be as simple as screwing in a lightbulb and connecting it to your Wi-Fi. You can use your smart phone to turn on and off remotely and dim. Some products and apps allow you to change the color of the light or set scenes on demand or on a schedule. They may even "learn" your preferences and do it for you. Others use color-changing features to help you feel more energized in the morning or wind down at the end of the day.

Here are some of the smart lighting product features offered today:

You may already be remotely controlling your home's heating and cooling, appliances and lighting. If not, it's coming. The goal with this technology, whether in single homes or connected community grids, is to minimize energy use.

The "smart lighting" component may use natural light to reduce artificial lighting. It may use motion detectors and daylight sensors to automatically turn lights on and off or to dim them if too bright. The technology may utilize microwave and infrared rays, sound sensors,

optical cameras, optical trip wires, door contact sensors, thermal cameras and more.

According to ENERGY STAR, here are some of the smart lighting product features you can buy right now:

- Basic on/off and dimming (no light color change) – location-based controls, called geo-fencing, automatically turn lights on and off based on the location of your smart phone or presence of people in a room
- White color tuning – control the shade of the light from warm to cool
- White and party color changing – products that offer white light or set colors like red, blue and green or ones that can tune to just about any color in the rainbow
- Sensors that respond to your schedule or behavior without having to program it
- Sensors that turn lights on
- Photocell built in for outdoor use
- Sensors that pair with a voice-activated digital assistant if you want to control the lights with your voice
- Don't use Bluetooth with its limited range if you want to control the lights when you are not home
- Multiple people can access controls versus a single user and smart phone
- Pair with other devices like smart thermostats and security systems for energy-saving modes while you are away

Since 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy has been working with national laboratories and industry to research and test connected lighting systems that ultimately could become data collection platforms to save energy, protect against cybersecurity threats and many other capabilities.



All About Lighting

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 23, 2020

Following recommendations from the president of the United States prohibiting social gatherings of more than ten people due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Section 351.355 RSMo., the meeting was conducted by conference call whereby all parties could hear one another. 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: Densil Allen Jr., Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, Manager of Accounting Michael Newland 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 March 2020; expenditures for the month of March 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the March 2020 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's 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 and ratios. He reported the audit has been completed by Kevin Kelso and will be presented to the board at the next meeting. He recommended the board discuss capital credit retirements at the May meeting as well. He reported on March 2020 financials from West Central Services.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report. His report included the following: outages; construction; pole changeouts; inspections; safety improvement plan; Safety Committee report; crew visits; and no lost-time accidents. He also reported on how crews are working around COVID-19. Gray reported on a potential new load.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger provided a written Engineering Report. He reported on the following: staking projects and gave a right-of-way report.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up and community engagement with COVID-19. Youth Tour has been cancelled this year because of COVID-19. AMEC is considering different options for giving awards for Youth Tour.



NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW Report. Items of interest included: outages; legislative activities; and reliability. He also discussed insurance on the helicopter and airplane. He reported on the NW Annual Meeting held virtually and reported on the board members who were elected during that meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Jarman gave the scholarship report, and reported that five applicants were given the English Scholarship and 21 applicants were awarded the West Central Scholarships. Scholarships were approved.

OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT

Streit reported she will report the next time the Round Up board can meet.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

Gray discussed the options for holding the annual meeting this year and the impact of COVID-19 on those options. The nominating committee will meet by telephone on May 13. Petitions for election are due on May 31. Further discussion will be held at the May meeting.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: How the office was dealing with COVID-19 and adjustments being made to ensure the employees safety as well as continued service to the members. The board agreed it was up to the manager on when to decide to safely open the lobby. He will keep the board informed. He also discussed fiber and United Electric Cooperative. He reported that the AECl Annual Meeting will be cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$2,420,052	\$8,947,358	\$8,927,466
Power Bill Expense	1,373,765	4,621,550	5,040,899
Operation & Maint. Expense	583,370	1,694,129	2,050,494
Depreciation Expense	191,956	574,107	542,618
Interest Expense	125,631	352,120	344,989
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,274,722	7,241,906	7,979,000
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	145,330	1,705,452	948,466
Other Margins	34,154	52,842	92,622
TOTAL MARGINS	\$179,484	\$1,758,294	\$1,041,088

