



West Central Electric Cooperative

October 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Energy in Today's Classroom

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WCE Round Up Foundation makes next round of grants to area community groups for needed projects

Energy Efficiency tips for renters...

Discover ways to save even if you don't own your own home

As a renter concerned about how much energy you are paying for, first talk with your landlord about major fixes like new windows, air conditioners and furnaces. Here are some actions from ENERGY STAR you can take on your own to reduce that utility bill:

Change the light bulbs – The easiest and probably most cost-effective change is simply to use light-emitting diode bulbs. LEDs are now quite affordable, use 75 percent less energy and last 10 to 25 times longer than the old incandescent bulbs.

Turn off the lights – Even with efficient light bulbs, it pays to turn off the lights when you don't need them.

Use a power strip – As with lights, turn off electronics when you aren't using them. The easiest way is to use power strips that power several appliances or devices. Using a power strip for your computer and peripheral equipment will allow you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating phantom use.

Fix the windows – No, you probably can't replace windows in a rental, but you can caulk and seal them on the inside – or point out the need to do so to your landlord. Your landlord may allow you to add window films that can block summer heat gain; they perform best in climates with a long cooling season. For winter, ask if you can add plastic sheeting to exterior windows, if they don't have storm window additions. Finally, add blinds, cur-

tains and drapes. In summer, pull them during the day to block unwanted sun rays. Open them during winter days to invite the sunshine in for a passive solar effect.

Install a smart/programmable thermostat – This handy device will allow you to automatically regulate the temperature in your apartment. You can save about 10 percent on your electricity bill by reducing temperatures 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That's about the time you're at work. Your cooperative may offer a rebate on a smart thermostat.

Caulk and seal – In addition to the window fixes mentioned above, caulk and weatherstrip other obvious leaks in the exterior shell. Add gaskets behind outlets and switches.

Clean refrigerator coils – If the refrigerator is yours and is more than 15 years old, you are overdue for a more efficient one. For an existing fridge, simply cleaning the coils can help it run more efficiently.

Use low-flow showerheads – They save electricity as well as water. Keep in mind a 10-minute shower (5 minutes is even better) will use about 25 gallons of water compared to about 30 for a full bath.

Keep registers clear – Keep furniture off registers. If you have radiators, place heat-resistant reflectors between them and walls.

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*

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SAFETY FIRST!

Ladders and electricity are a bad combination. That's why you should always "look up and live." Before using a ladder scout the location to ensure you won't come close to overhead power lines. The only safe way to use a ladder near power lines is to first have your electric co-op disconnect the line.



Don't forget to pick up your

**FREE REFLECTIVE
HALLOWEEN TREAT BAG**

**at your cooperative offices in
Higginsville and Oak Grove.**

Cooler weather means more power

Weather isn't the only cause of fall power outages; blame the animals

After bouts of unseasonably warm weather to start off the season, the cool and crisp fall air will be a welcome change for many. However, with the decrease in temperatures comes the inevitable increase of outages and blinks caused by animals.

Most people attribute outages to storms and high winds, but there doesn't have to be a cloud in the sky or a storm in the air to cause a power outage. Although a number of outages may be caused by high winds blowing tree limbs onto lines, the culprit in the fall of the year is likely to be of the furry or feathery variety.

"When the air begins to turn cold, a lot of times we see an increase in the amount of outages on our system that we can attribute to animals," Line Superintendent Randy Burkeybile said.

The number of outages attributed to animals can increase in the fall when squirrels begin preparing for winter. Squirrels and other animals climb on equipment, such as

"Transformers put off heat. Squirrels, raccoons and other animals will climb onto the transformers for warmth, and they get into places they shouldn't be. Before you know it, there is a power outage."

***--Randy Burkeybile
WCE Operations Manager***

transformers and fuses, and the equipment shuts down in order to protect the rest of the system.

"The reason these instances sometimes tend to increase in the fall is because the transformers put off heat," Burkeybile said. "Squirrels, raccoons and other animals will climb onto the transformers for warmth, and they get into places they shouldn't be. Before you know it, there is a power outage."

Animals on the transformers can also cause the monotonous "blinks" that keep the lights off only long enough to force you to have to set every digital clock in the house.

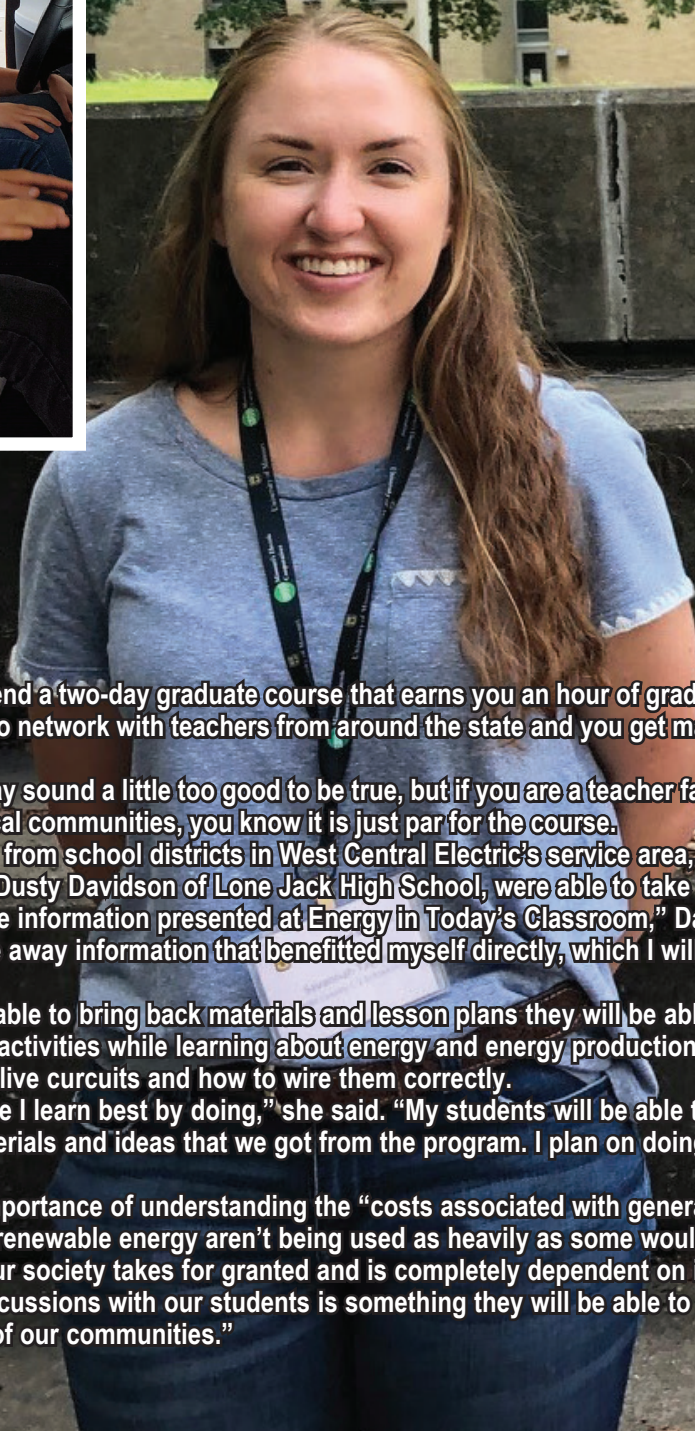
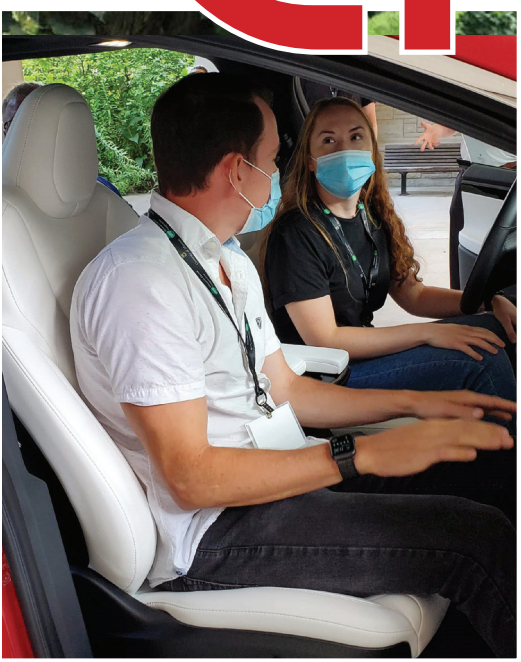
Your cooperative is doing what it can to reduce outages



attributed to animals by installing insulated "bird wire" and wildlife protection devices to prevent animals and birds from making contact with electrical equipment. These devices are not only meant to protect the electrical system, but also the birds and animals.

Your cooperative is working hard to reduce the number of outages experienced by our members. When calling in an electrical outage, please be sure to have your map number available. It can be found under the "service information" section located in the center of your billing statement. Outages may be reported at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or on our website at www.westcentralelectric.coop.

Energy



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, Savannah Taylor of Lafayette County C-I High School and Dusty Davidson of Lone Jack High School, were able to take advantage of just that opportunity.

"I was very pleased with the information presented at Energy in Today's Classroom," Davidson said. "Being a co-op member myself, I was able to take away information that benefitted myself directly, which I will be able to pass along to my students."

Davidson and Taylor were able to bring back materials and lesson plans they will be able to use in their classrooms so students will have hands-on activities while learning about energy and energy production. Taylor said she was glad to have the opportunity to work with live circuits and how to wire them correctly.

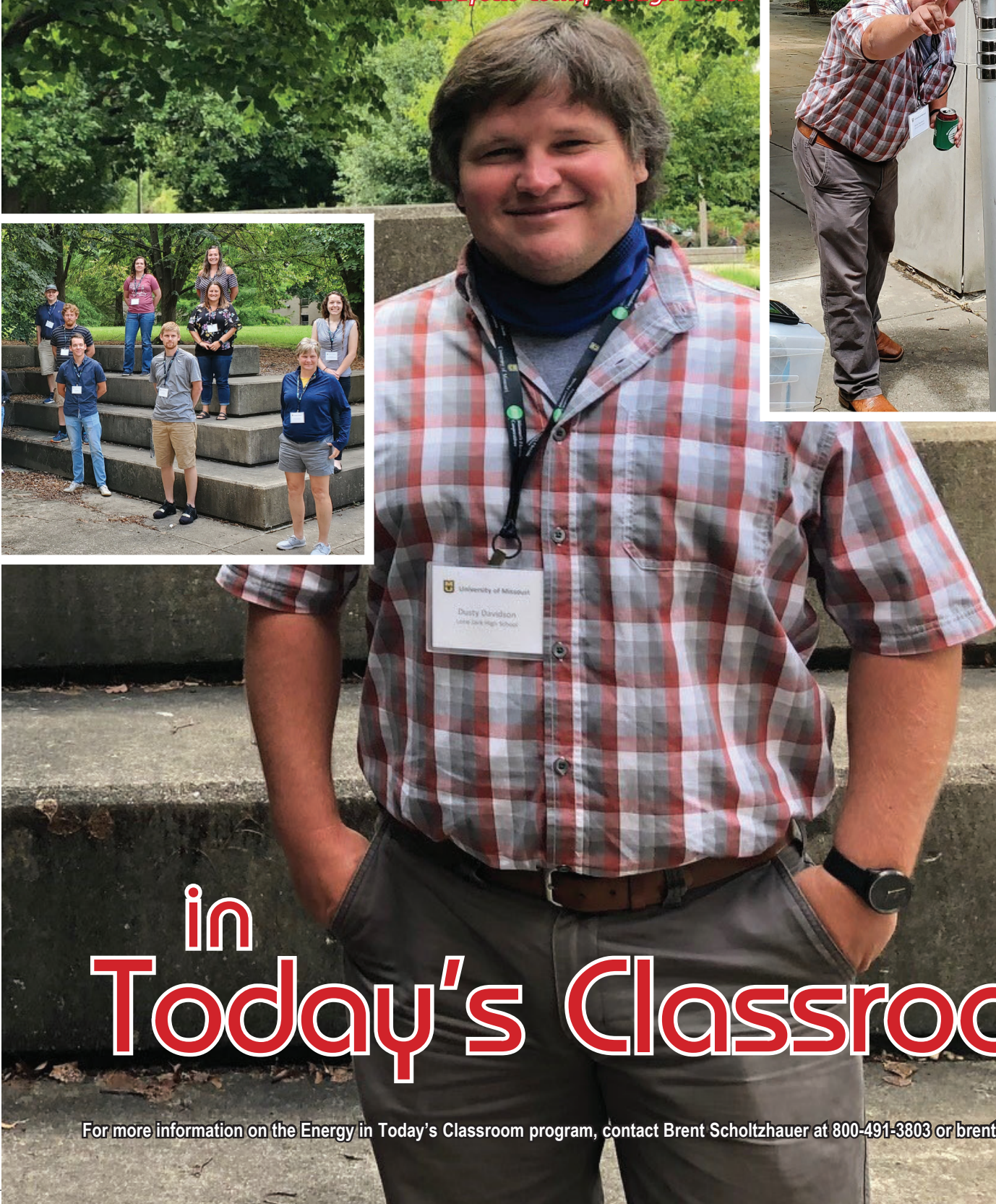
"This was very helpful since I learn best by doing," she said. "My students will be able to learn about electricity and circuits with the hands-on materials and ideas that we got from the program. I plan on doing the outlet wiring activities with them as well," she said.

Davidson also noted the importance of understanding the "costs associated with generating electricity and barriers and reasons why some forms of renewable energy aren't being used as heavily as some would like."

"Electricity is something our society takes for granted and is completely dependent on it being available," Davidson said. "Being able to have discussions with our students is something they will be able to take with them beyond school to become productive citizens of our communities."

"I was very impressed with the program. We got to hear from speakers who were extremely knowledgeable about many aspects of energy. Things were well organized and it was enjoyable! I would definitely recommend this program to other teachers!"

--Savannah Taylor
Lafayette County C-I High School



in Today's Classroom

For more information on the Energy in Today's Classroom program, contact Brent Scholtzhauer at 800-491-3803 or brent@wcecoop.com

Round Up funds more area projects



Tri-County Outreach \$2,000

Funds used to purchase food from Harvester's for the local food pantry.



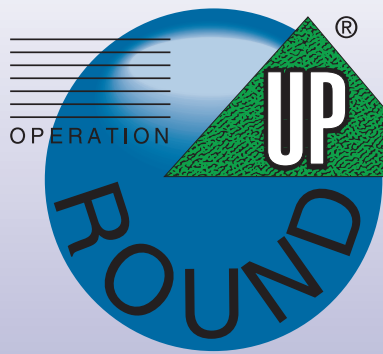
Higginsville Montessori Schoolhouse \$2,500

Funds used by students to repurpose and redesign a dated utility room which will allow them to expand their recycling program, as well as include more students in their environmental sustainability initiatives.



Concordia Fire Protection District \$9,750

Funds used to purchase equipment including an electric fan for ventilation, ice rescue suits with life vests, throw ropes and a strut stabilizer kit to stabilize vehicles while rescuers are working on or underneath.



WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC ROUNDUP FOUNDATION

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members

A total of six area projects received help with funding through the most recent round of grants approved by the West Central Electric Round Up Foundation.

Members who choose not to opt out of the program have their bills rounded up each month to the nearest dollar with proceeds benefiting foundation applicants chosen for funding.

If you are interested in applying for funding for your organization, applications are available at www.westcentralelectric.com along with a list of program requirements. The board meets quarterly to consider applications and award funds. For more information on the Round Up Program, contact Kim Lewis at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



Assembly of God-Good 360 Program \$1,200

Funds used to assist low-income families and seniors with needed goods and products.



Lafayette County Enterprises \$7,500

Funds used to help replace a delivery truck.



Johnson County Livestock Committee \$2,050

Funds used to fence in the area (pictured above) between the two barns on the JoCo Fairgrounds.

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

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

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. 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, CFO Michael Newland and general counsel Sheri Smiley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, upon motion made by Swisegood seconded by Strobel and passed, the amended agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 25, 2020; expenditures for the month of June 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the June 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 on June 2020 financials from West Central Services. The board discussed line loss. He reported that RFP's had been sent to auditors and they should be back by August 15, 2020. The audit for West Central Electric Round Up Foundation, Inc., was done by Kevin Kelso, CPA, and the charge for that was \$2600.00. The board discussed the bylaw provision of the Foundation relating to audits and the consensus was that the audit fee would be paid by the Foundation. A motion was made by Bredehoeft and seconded by Ahman to amend Article XVII of the bylaws of the Foundation to allow the board to use agreed-upon procedures to have a review done every year by an outside company, and an audit every five years unless decided earlier by the West Central Board of Directors. After discussion the motion passed. The notice to amend the bylaws of the Foundation pursuant to Article XVII will be followed and the bylaw amendment will be voted on at the August meeting. He also discussed the RUS loan package that is being worked on and reported that RUS will be doing a presentation to the board at the next meeting.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report. His report included the following: a crew update, no major outages in June, and a report on fleet maintenance. He also reported on safety meetings, crew visits and audits of the trucks.



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. He reported on how collection accounts will be handled and letters that were mailed. He gave an update on net metering and rebates and reported on the Missouri State Fair.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW Report. Items of interest included: Dave Deihl was named as the new NW President. He updated on outages, margins, solar, and reliability. He reported that the 2021 board meeting dates had been set and the policies that were being reviewed.

WEST CENTRAL ROUND UP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit gave the Foundation report. She gave an update on recent meetings.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters. The net-metering agreement was discussed and changes will be made the agreement to address insurance concerns.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: The CFC meeting will be held on Aug. 14. Gray was selected as the delegate and Simmons is the alternate. The Co-Bank director election will be held and nominees were discussed. Gray discussed the Iowa Healthcare Plan. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to monitor the plan for two years to see if it is something the cooperative would consider switching to. He reported that two IEDS scholarships were given. He gave an update on how the inside staff is working and COVID-19 precautions being taken. He gave an update on how the members will return their director election ballots.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 12:05 p.m. and was dismissed at 12:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • June 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$2,199,277	\$15,163,852	\$14,901,388
Power Bill Expense	1,448,912	8,594,234	8,922,842
Operation & Maint. Expense	630,329	3,589,646	3,757,309
Depreciation Expense	193,779	1,153,922	1,093,210
Interest Expense	126,021	715,606	704,061
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,399,041	14,053,408	14,477,422
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(199,764)	1,110,444	423,966
Other Margins	8,606	80,976	148,115
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(191,158)	\$1,191,420	\$572,081

