



West Central Electric Cooperative

September 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Labor Day at the lake?

If you are wrapping up summer at the lake this Labor Day weekend, don't get complacent with electrical safety measures around the water and docks

PAGE 2

Connor Lamphier and Dylan Lilleman win WCE Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship

PAGES 4-5

Plant trees and shrubs now for shade and shelter this winter

PAGE 7

Technology allows Youth Tour delegates to stay connected even through pandemic

Fall into savings with ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR exists for one purpose: to help save you money

Fall is just around the corner, and ENERGY STAR offers these tips for saving money. ENERGY STAR is a program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy that promotes energy efficiency.

Use an ENERGY STAR-certified smart thermostat — The average American household spends almost half its annual energy bill on heating and cooling. The easiest way to lower that cost is to turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees eight hours at night or when you're away. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat designed for use with heat pumps.

ENERGY STAR-certified smart thermostats will help you control temperature settings. These smart thermostats:

- Accurately measure temperature
- Quickly enter a low-power standby mode when inactive



- Track and report equipment use and temperature data to the homeowner
 - Provide tailored functionality and service that delivers energy savings that make sense for the individual homeowner
- Ask your cooperative if it offers rebates for the Take Control & Save smart thermostats.

Use energy-efficient LED Lighting that has earned the EN-

ERGY STAR label – With ENERGY STAR-certified light-emitting diode bulbs, you will use 70 to 90 percent less energy than with incandescent bulbs. You'll save more than \$55 in electricity bills over the lifetime of each bulb, and your bulb will also last 15 times longer.

Rule your attic – Nine out of 10 homes in the U.S. are under-insulated. Sealing air leaks around your home and adding insulation are two of the most cost-effective ways to improve energy efficiency and comfort in your home. By tackling both projects, you can maximize your comfort and save up to 10 percent on your annual energy bills. A

great place to start is in the attic. Check out www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAviffw4SFk to see how you can #RuleYourAttic and save big all season long.

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

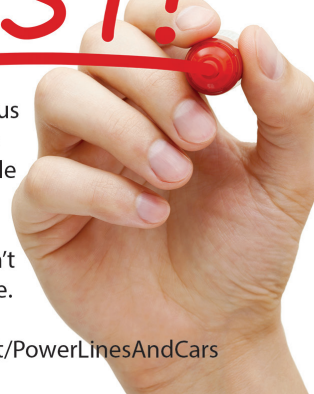
Board of Directors:

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.

SAFETY FIRST!

If a power line falls on your car, bus or farm equipment, do you know what to do? Stay inside the vehicle unless it catches on fire. Warn people not to touch the vehicle. If you are outside the vehicle don't try to help someone who is inside. For more safety tips you can visit www.membersfirst.coop/content/PowerLinesAndCars



REMINDER TO MEMBERS

In the event of an outage, please do not post outage information on our Facebook page, as it could get missed. Please report outages online at www.westcentralelectric.coop or by phone at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

West Central Electric Cooperative

Electrical Distribution Systems

2020

Scholarship Winners

West Central Electric Cooperative is proud to announce Connor Lamphier and Dylan Lilleman as the winners of the 2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

The scholarship program offers a college scholarship worth up to \$5,000 per year to an area student or students interested in pursuing a degree or certificate in electrical distribution systems

in an accredited EDS program. This scholarship also provides on-the-job training, including a required, paid internship at West Central Electric Cooperative, as well as employment with the cooperative following the successful completion of the program and internship.

Both Lamphier and Lilleman begin their respective programs this year with internships slated for summer 2021.

Connor Lamphier

Lamphier is a 2016 graduate of Lafayette County C-I High School, and is the son of Mark and Monica Lamphier of Higginsville. He will attend Metropolitan Community College through a one-year course culminating in lineman certification. Lamphier enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in March 2017, and holds the rank of Lance Corporal.

"My ultimate goal would be to gain employment with West Central Electric and build a career here and remain within the community I grew up in," he said. "I value family and my community, and want to build my family in this community."



Dylan Lilleman

Lilleman is a 2020 graduate of Lafayette County C-I High School, and is the son of Kerrick and Kelly Lilleman. He will be attending State Technical College of Missouri where he will work toward an EDS degree through a two-year program.

Lilleman said he chose electrical distribution systems for several reasons.

"First and foremost, I enjoy helping and serving others, and love being outdoors and working with my hands," he said. "Additionally, I love a challenge that requires me to use my hands and mind to solve it. I will work hard to continuously improve my skills and stay current with the ever-changing technology that affects the industry."

Congratulation Connor and Dylan!



Plant now for shade and shelter

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, 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 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.

10 actions to take before the snow hits...

There's no "bad" time of year to get more energy efficient, but fall is particularly good for several efficiency action steps. Here are 10 actions you can take to get more energy efficient before winter hits:

1 Insulate your attic – The attic insulation you placed 10 years ago has likely settled. Add insulation to R38 to R60.

2 Insulate the rest of your house – Insulate ceilings above unheated basements or crawl-spaces to R20. Also insulate walls to R13 and floors to R25 to R30.

3 Weatherstrip and caulk – Replace old weatherstripping and caulk with fresh and add gaskets behind electrical outlets on exterior walls.

4 Install storm doors and windows – Federal energy tax credits for exterior doors and windows, including skylights, are set to expire Dec. 31. You can claim a total of \$200.

5 Tighten your attic hatch – Seal the access into your attic with weatherstripping and insulation.

6 Seal holes into attic – Open wall tops, chimneys, furnace flues and duct, plumbing or electrical runs can be big energy wasters. Seal them with spray foam or rigid foam board.

7 Wrap water heaters – Cut heat loss by 25 to 45 percent by wrapping your electric water heater, particularly if it's in an unheated space, with a blanket of fiberglass.

8 Change furnace filters – Furnaces have to work harder to maintain air-flow where filters are clogged, thereby reducing efficiency and possibly damaging the furnace. Consider installing a furnace alarm to alert you when it's time to change the filter.

9 Plant a tree – October and November are good months to plant trees. Properly positioned, they can save up to 25 percent of energy consumption for your home's heating and cooling. For air conditioning alone, the U.S. Department of Energy says trees can reduce bills by 50 percent. So, head to your local nursery and select shade trees to plant on the east, west and southwest corners of your house.

10 Remove or cover your window air conditioner: To avoid losing heat through your window, you'll have to take your air conditioning unit out. You also can cover window units with an insulated liner, but that might still let drafts into your home.



YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES CONNECT...

Delegates of the 2020 Youth Tour missed the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. because of COVID-19, but they haven't missed the opportunity to connect. Delegates have participated in several Zoom calls with fellow Missouri delegates and YT coordinators from AMEC and their sponsoring cooperatives over the past few months, and they have also been able to participate in conference calls with their US senators and representatives. (During the Youth Tour, the delegates typically spend a day on Capitol Hill visiting their congressmen and women.) The cooperatives are thankful our legislators have taken the time to meet with delegates and involve them in the process even away from D.C. NRECA has also launched Youth Tour Online via Facebook Live as another way to keep delegates connected to Youth Tour.

Labor Day at the lake? Remember safety

As summer comes to an end, don't get complacent

Safe Electricity urges boat and dock owners to have electrical systems checked and repaired to help prevent water electrocution accidents. Exposure to the elements as well as the motion of water can degrade the condition of electrical wires and components allowing electricity to leak into the water or energize surrounding metal.

Each year, people are killed by electrical shock while in the water near docks or boats plugged into shore power. Tragically, these accidents often happen during fun-filled gatherings, such as the July 4th holiday weekend in 2012, in which five people were killed in three separate accidents. Proper maintenance and safety equipment are important steps to help prevent these tragedies.

Even if your electrical systems were up to standards last year, it does not mean they are safe this year. Make it a point to check them at least once a year to ensure everyone's safety.

Safe Electricity in conjunction with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association recommend taking these steps before boating season begins:

- Docks should have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source. That will ensure any part of the metal dock that becomes energized because of electrical malfunction will trip the

circuit breaker.

- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Ensure your neighbor's dockside electrical system complies with the National Electrical Code and has been inspected.

- All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards.

When it comes to your boat's electrical system, particularly those with AC systems, keep these tips in mind:

- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified® Technician.

- There are some big differences between your house and your boat. Household wire is not suitable for use on boats as houses are motionless and generally dry. Even marine-rated wire that is not supported along its length will break with constant motion stress.

- Do NOT use wire nuts or splice connectors! Wire nuts are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat, and splice connectors cut wire strands.

- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the appliance. If a fuse blows continuously, it should NOT be replaced with a larger one just to keep it from blowing again—something else is wrong.

- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to: "Prevent deadly shocks. Check your boats and docks." Learn more at SafeElectricity.org and www.abycinc.org.

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held June 25, 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, June 25, 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 Max Swisegood seconded by Richard 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 May 28, 2020; expenditures for the month of May 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: CFO Michael Newland reviewed the audit results from Kevin Kelso. He reported that the cooperative is in compliance with the debt covenants and gave an overview of West Central Electric and West Central Services. He presented the May 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 May 2020 financials from West Central Services. He discussed the CD bank rates for the scholarship fund. The scholarship committee will meet again at the end of the year. A discussion was then held regarding the audit services for the next year. Proposals will be brought back to the board to consider. Newland also discussed overdue bills since COVID-19. After lengthy discussion, the consensus of the Board was that on the pre-pays the co-op will send a letter after the capital credits have been applied and will tell them that they are going back to normal billing and collection procedures with a billing deadline to be set by management. On the regular accounts the co-op will send a letter encouraging they call and set up a payment plan, and stating that normal collections will begin on Sept. 1. The board approved giving up to nine months to repay any arrearage if the member contacts the cooperative to arrange a payment plan. Only accounts in arrears greater than \$25 can request the payment plan.

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



Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided a written Operations and Safety Report. His report included the following: crews started coming back to the cooperative on June 1 with staggered times to reduce the exposure to each other as a safety precaution for the employees from COVID-19. On June 22 the crews moved back to the normal start time. He gave an update on the outage that occurred on June 24 due to a storm.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He gave an update on going back to normal for billing procedures. He gave an update on the net metering systems and rebates approved. He also gave an update on energy audits.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW Report. The meeting was held via conference call due to COVID-19. Items of interest included: outages; margins, and reliability. He gave an update on a MODOT project and he gave an update on plans being considered for the 2021 annual meeting.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Sheri Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: an update on how the inside staff is working and COVID-19 precautions being taken. He also reported on fiber auctions that are soon occurring. **AMEC DISTRICT 1 MEETING**

Bredehoeft gave an update on the AMEC District 1 meeting held by teleconference on May 20. He announced who was elected to the committees and who received service award nominations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 11:40 a.m. and was dismissed at 12:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • May 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$1,878,369	\$12,964,574	\$12,829,655
Power Bill Expense	1,240,576	7,145,322	7,546,273
Operation & Maint. Expense	700,603	2,959,317	3,105,593
Depreciation Expense	193,569	960,143	908,613
Interest Expense	119,471	589,585	589,865
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,254,219	11,654,367	12,150,344
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(375,850)	1,310,207	679,311
Other Margins	9,637	72,372	135,173
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(366,213)	\$1,382,579	\$814,484

