



West Central Electric Cooperative

January 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Pole Top Rescue

Keeping sharp when it comes to safety practices on the job is a priority at West Central Electric

PAGE 2

Operation Round Up continues to support local community projects thanks to participating WCE members

PAGES 4-5

We're looking for a few great youth leaders! Could YOU be the next WCE delegate on the Rural Electric Youth Tour or CYCLE?

PAGES 6-7

Do you know what to do during a winter power outage? SafeElectricity.org can help you out whether it is a long- or short-term outage





4-H members and officials receiving check are: front row (l-r) Round Up Board member Donna Matthews, Round Up Board President Dennis Knipmeyer, Brock Krewson, Mallory Hall, Annika Riekhof, and Round Up Board members Sally Davidson and Oral Glasco. Back row (l-r) Brigid Groom, Johnson County Youth Specialist Kim Hall, Addison Schloman, Emilee Colhour, Rebekah Papasifakis, Audrey Phillips, Maddy McDowell, Sonya Rodekoher, Lynn Dyer, Briana Frerking, Zoe Engelbrecht and Lafayette County Youth Specialist Emily Bergseiker.

OPERATION ROUND UP...

The West Central Electric Operation Round Up Foundation Board presented \$7,000 to MU Extension of Lafayette and Johnson county. With this grant, Johnson & Lafayette County 4-H programs will be able to provide a STEAM tool for schools in the two-county area. Google Expeditions is a virtual reality (VR) tech tool that lets students go on exciting excursions from the comfort of their classroom. With over 500 preloaded field trips, the teacher guides the students through majestic locations on earth and beyond. The project will be able to reach 12,500 youth in the two-county area.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Mike Gray, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 Brandon Steffen waits for his turn to climb during pole-top rescue training as part of the co-op's safety program.

Energy in Today's Classroom

CALLING ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE, MATH, AG AND BUILDING TRADE INSTRUCTORS!! The University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri's electric cooperatives work together to bring a knowledge of energy, energy sources and production, generation, efficiency, and more to students in classrooms across the state.

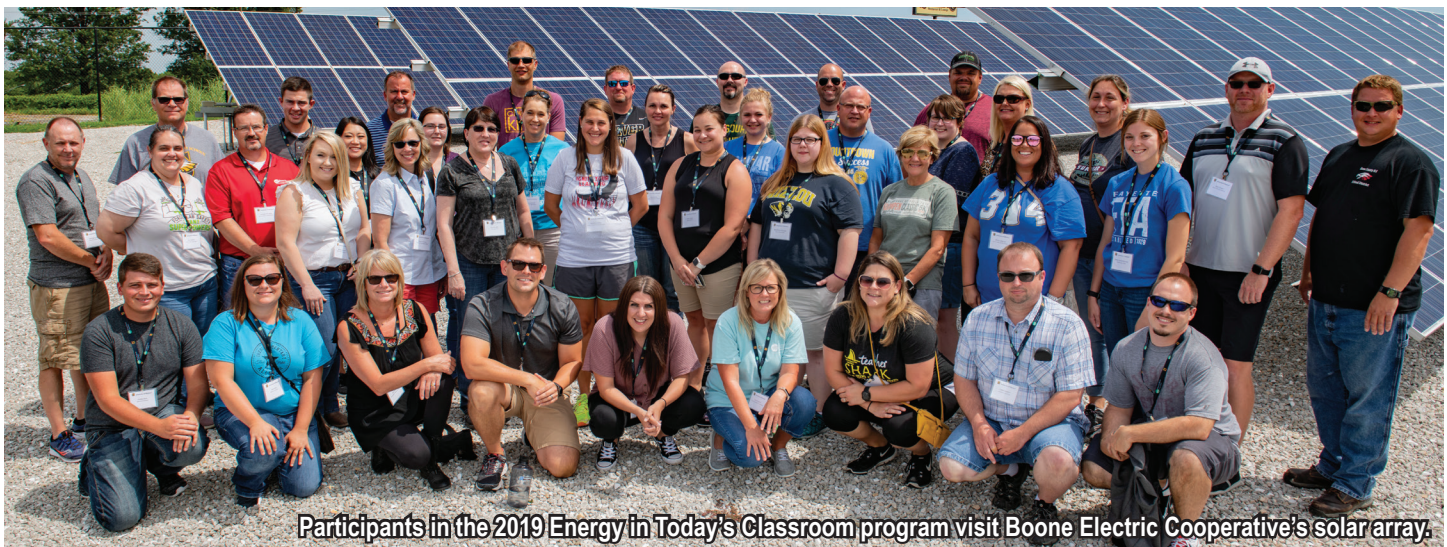
West Central Electric Cooperative has announced an opportunity available to middle school and high school science, ag science, math or building trades instructors to attend the **2020 Energy in Today's Classroom** program July 28-29, 2020 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. One teacher in our service territory will be chosen for a scholarship to this year's workshop.

The Energy in Today's Classroom program is a two-day graduate-level course offered through the University of Missouri-Columbia that will provide you with 15 hours of classroom training and one hour of graduate course credit from MU. This graduate credit is equivalent to 15 hours of professional development.

Designed to fully support Missouri's statewide educational

standards, the course provides teachers with a background in energy and energy production. Participants will cover energy basics, energy sources, power generation and transmission, economics and energy production, energy efficiency, and will take a tour of the University of Missouri's multi-fuel power generation station and Boone Electric Cooperative. In addition to the materials and information covered during the course, participants will take home a classroom kit for their use at no cost. Tools and reference guides are included in the kit, along with several hands-on demonstration tools to enhance classroom learning.

For more information, contact Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or brent@wcecoop.com. Application deadline is Feb. 1, 2020.



Participants in the 2019 Energy in Today's Classroom program visit Boone Electric Cooperative's solar array.

West Central Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour & CYCLE 2020!

What do the schools in West Central Electric Cooperative's service area have in common? They have sent some of the best and brightest to both our nation's and state's capitals for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. If you are a high school junior this year, **YOU** could be a part of that, too!

What is Youth Tour?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand. Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from Alaska to Wyoming and in between. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send more than 100 delegates. This year, WCE will send **AT LEAST THREE DELEGATES**, and, depending on the number of entries received, as many as five delegates to Washington, D.C.

When is it?

This year's Youth Tour will be June 19-25, 2020. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Friday, June 19 for a banquet and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 20. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric, and spend the day in Jefferson City on their own mini-Youth



What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives, as well as visit historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. Favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks are also on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums, Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and Arlington National Cemetery. Delegates will also enjoy a moonlight cruise on the Potomac River and a MLB game or play at the Kennedy Center. The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

What is CYCLE?

CYCLE is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience which will be held 15-17, 2020 in Jefferson City. WCE will send **FIVE**

sponsored by the Association will join more than 100 other will hear amazing speakers, activities, and get a chance bill on the floor of the information, contact your Heather Hoflander at West

DELEGATES to this conference of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. They delegates from across the state. Students participate in team-building and leadership to author, present and debate their own Missouri House of Representatives. For more high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.



Far Right Photo: WCE Youth Tour delegates (l-r) Maddi Schuette, Rylee Othick, Logan Tracy and Abby Fowler.

Middle photo: WCE Youth Tour delegate Logan Tracy visits the Kennedy gravesite.

Top Photo: WCE Youth Tour delegate Abby Fowler of Warrensburg High School listens to Missouri Representative Vicky Hartzler during a tour of the U.S. Capitol Building.

Bottom Photo: WCE CYCLE delegate Lucas Coulter of Chilhowee High School meets Gov. Mike Parson.

Contest Details:

The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE.

How do I enter?

Submit a 600-word, typed essay on the following topic:

“How the 7 Cooperative Principles reflect what cooperatives value”

Students will use theme to write an essay showing one of the cooperative principles at work in their local community, school or personally.

For more information:

Visit westcentralelectric.coop and click on “Youth Programs” then “Youth Tour” to download the information packet.

DEADLINE: Feb. 14, 2020.

What to do during an

Weather, accidents, and storms can disrupt the electricity we are so used to having. Sometimes electricity flickers momentarily then comes back. Serious damage to power lines and the electrical grid can cause outages for days, or weeks. Safe Electricity (a division of the Energy Education Council) has valuable information to keep you safe and comfortable during a power outage of any length.

Short-Term Power Failures

Don't panic! Check to see if your neighbors still have electricity. If they do, the problem could be inside your home. Check your main fuses or circuit breakers to see if they have blown or tripped. Replacing a fuse or resetting a circuit breaker may restore your electricity.

If the problem is not in your home, call your electric supplier. A repairperson will be dispatched as quickly as possible. Your supplier should also be able to tell you if it will be an extended outage. Make certain sensitive electronics are plugged into a surge protector/UPS (uninterruptible power supply). Unplug appliances with electronic components, such as microwaves, or other digital appliances. This will help to eliminate damage to your appliances when the electricity is restored. Wait a few minutes before turning on these appliances when the electricity is restored. This will reduce demand on the power supplier's electrical system.

Long-Term Power Failures

If you use a standby generator, be sure it has been installed and wired properly. If improperly installed, a generator could cause dangerous conditions for the utility supplier's employees working to restore the power. Your generator could be damaged when the power is restored if a double throw disconnect is not used and properly installed.

Of course, it is also important to be sure that a fresh supply of fuel to power the generator is on hand and stored properly.

To make an outage easier to cope with, keep an adequate supply of the following on hand at all times. These should be kept in a cool, dry place and all members of the family should know where to find them.

- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Candles and matches
- Extra supply of batteries for flashlights and radio
- Basic first-aid supplies
- A small supply of drinking water and food

Baby supplies if an infant is in the home

Check the basement periodically for flooding. You can use a portable, gasoline-powered pump to pump out a basement or crawl space when the power is interrupted to an electric sump pump. Never wade into a flooded basement unless electricity supplying sump pumps, freezers, etc. has been disconnected. The power may be restored while you are in the flooded basement and the motors on these appliances may be submerged.

Never go near downed power lines; let qualified people from the power supplier handle these situations.

Winter Power Outages

Dress warmly. Several layers of clothing provide better insulation than a single layer of heavier clothing.

Move to a single room, preferably one with few windows. Ideally, this room should be on the south side of the home for maximum heat gain in the daytime.

The room should be shut off from the rest of the house and

Electrical

could be one with a fireplace, wood stove or other alternate heat source.

If you use an alternate heat source, be sure and follow operating instructions. For example if you use a kerosene heater, adequate ventilation is a must. All fuels should be stored outside of the home for safety reasons. Wood stoves and fireplaces should be maintained properly throughout the year to prevent problems when they are needed in an emergency.

A primary concern in winter is keeping water pipes from freezing. A small stream of water can be left on to prevent this. This is not a practical solution when water is supplied from a well. Insulating the water pipes is a more permanent method. See the section on extended outages and home shutdowns for information on how to drain the water pipes of your home.

In most rural areas electricity is required to pump water into the home. Since water cannot be pumped during a power outage, keep an adequate supply of drinking water on hand at all times.

Consolidate your resources with neighbors. They might have heat and electricity in their homes.

Extended Power Outage/Home Shutdown

Unplug everything in your home. Turn off breakers or remove fuses. If there is an extended power outage, you may want to leave one lighting circuit on so you will know when the electricity comes back on.

Winterize your water supply system completely. Be sure to disconnect the electrical supply to the water heater before draining. If the power is not off there can be damage to the elements in the heater. Drain the water system from the lowest possible point so there will be as little water as possible left in the pipes.

Hot water heating systems should be drained unless filled with a nonfreezing solution. A call to your dealer or installer will tell you if it should be drained.

The drainage system in the home also needs to be winterized. This is done by pouring antifreeze into the traps in the drains below the sinks, toilets, washing machines, etc. Recreational vehicle antifreeze is recommended because it is less toxic.

Empty all food from freezers and refrigerators and leave the doors open. The food could be taken to neighbors that have electricity or to a food locker. Dry ice could also be used for a short period of time. The easiest solution may be to take the food outside if the temperature is cold enough.

If your home is equipped with an electric heat pump, special care is needed when turning the unit on after an extended out-

Outage

takes a period of time for the lubricant age. It in the refrigerant to warm-up. This is approximately one and one-half hours per ton of cooling capacity. This could vary from brand to brand and a call to your dealer could prevent problems. During this compressor warm-up time, you should use the supplemental or emergency resistance heating elements of the heat pump to heat the home.

Keep curtains closed except on south facing windows in the winter when the sun is shining. This will supply some passive solar heat in the daytime hours. Draperies should always be closed at night.

Following these suggestions will make it easier to cope with a power outage. Think ahead and be prepared for an emergency by having a plan for your household.

Remember to stay calm. The electricity will be back on as quickly as possible. Your electric supplier is working around the clock to restore your service.

Information courtesy of safeelectricity.org.

To report an outage...

Online:

Members may report power outages online at www.westcentralelectric.coop. Click on the tab at the top titled "Report an Outage" and enter your account number or phone number.

By phone:

You may also call to report outages by phone. Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day, or Higginsville at 816-565-4942.

**During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.*

Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

When calling, have this information ready:

- A) Your name, or the name your service is under;
- B) Your account number (look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number. (This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

Tracking Outages

Outage information may be tracked on our website, and periodic updates will be posted on our facebook page. **PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE** as they have a good chance of getting missed. If you have internet service, go to the website to report instead.

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Oct. 31, 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, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, general counsel Sheri Smiley, office staff of WCE and Kevin Kelso, CPA.

AUDIT

Kelso gave the audit presentation for 2018. He discussed margins, gave a labor breakdown, discussed operating expenses, plant, the balance sheet, current ratios, equity percentages, and distribution equity percentage. The board entered executive session at 10:25 a.m. and came out to report that no issues were found in the audit.

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 Sept. 26, 2019; expenditures for the month of September 2019; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September 2019 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the September 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. A discussion was held on equity management and margins. .

Operations and Safety Report: The board was referred to the written operations and safety reports.

Engineering Report: The board was referred to the written engineering report.

Member Services Report: The board was referred to the written member services report.

NW REPORT

Swisegood gave the NW update. He reported on margins, finances, outages and causes and work projects. He also reported on a potential discount on the December bill from NW.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Gray gave the AMEC report. They reported on the



CFC line of credit, AMEC dues that were increased, Rural Missouri Magazine, Touchstone Energy, license plates and new board officers.

NRECA REGION 8 -10 MEETING REPORT

Streit gave an update from the meeting she attended.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman gave an update on the scholarship committee. He discussed transcripts and that the English scholarship interviews are being extended.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit gave an update on the Oct. 14 meeting. She reported they had awarded \$37,150.00 to charitable organizations and discussed terms of the directors.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report.

REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The board reviewed the standing committees for 2020.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included a bill dispute with a member, recording phone calls, accounts in names of cities that cannot be paid until approved by the city council, a policy regarding late charges on these accounts, an Oak Grove update, a crew truck that had been hit causing minor damage to the truck and no injury, and the co-op employee who was chosen to go to Guatemala. The board retreat will be held Jan. 27-28. He also discussed a potential new load.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • September 2019

	This month	YTD 2019	YTD 2018
Revenue	\$2,273,995	\$22,122,982	\$22,724,292
Power Bill Expense	1,193,776	13,089,635	13,500,353
Operation & Maint. Expense	442,828	5,671,178	4,688,895
Depreciation Expense	187,612	1,654,155	1,595,822
Interest Expense	121,733	1,067,406	984,924
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	1,945,949	21,482,374	20,769,994
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	328,046	640,608	1,954,298
Other Margins	62,823	235,790	295,297
TOTAL MARGINS	\$390,869	\$876,398	\$2,249,595

