



West Central Electric Cooperative

May 2020

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

HIGH VOLTAGE
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT
MUST BE USED

Electrical Safety Month

You never know what the cause of an outage might be. Could be lightning, could be ants. ANTS?

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Interested in serving on WCE's board of directors? The 2020 Nominating Committee meets in May. Find out who they are...

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COVID-19 may have forced the cancellation of the Youth Tour and CYCLE finals, but WCE adapts to choose delegates.

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Split system? Cooling efficiency? Here is a guide to understanding the terms your heating & cooling contractor may throw around.

Board of Directors Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who:

(A) is not a member who continuously uses cooperative energy and service at his/her permanent, primary place of residence; or

(B) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or

(C) Has been an employee of the cooperative within the last three (3) years.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

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 Serviceman Robert Minnis snapped this photo of a transformer filled with an ant hill that caused a member to report an outage. The dirt the ants drag into the transformer draws and holds moisture which can cause the connections to corrode, resulting in improper voltage. Members could experience dimming or an outage.

2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Following is a list of the members named to the 2020 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on West Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors, contact any of the committee members in your district listed below. The committee will convene on May 13, 2020 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees will be voted on at the annual meeting July 31, 2020 in Warrensburg.

District I

Donald Fore
38105 E. Round Prairie Rd.
Oak Grove, MO 64075
816-625-3186

District III

Virginia Haller
510 NE 201st Rd.
Warrensburg, MO 64093
660-747-7330

Adam Heater
8968 Powell Rd.
Odessa, MO 64076
816-529-6594

Jeremy Sanders
613 NW 1001 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
660-909-3165

District II

Dennis Knipmeyer
17905 Long Grove Rd.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-584-2741

District IV

Verna Jenkins
1151 SW 1050 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
816-732-6946

Paul Nolte
711 W. 35th St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
660-909-7285

William Grauberger
513 NW 1201 Rd.
Holden, MO 64040
816-277-4171

District V

Stephanie Othic
41 SW 251 Rd.
Centerview, MO 64019
660-864-6687

**Terms will expire for District 3 Directors Richard Strobel and Robert Simmons, and District 5 Director Densil Allen, Jr.*

Members will elect TWO directors from District 3 and ONE director from District 5.

Why is the power out? You may be surprised at the culprit

When ice or severe thunderstorms are in the forecast, we expect there may be some interruptions in power. But on a bright, sunny day, you might wonder what's up.

"Believe it or not, a wasp in the wrong place at the wrong time can cause a power outage," West Central Electric Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile said.

Aside from the usual, in rural areas, animals, reptiles and insects can cause as much havoc as wind and ice. In the fall, it is not unusual to find squirrels and raccoons causing outages. In the spring and summer snakes or even ants can be the culprits.

"We had a recent outage that when our lineman opened the pad mounted transformer, it was full of dirt and ants. They had hauled in mounds of dirt and made it into an indoor ant hill," Burkeybile said. **(photo on cover)**

In any case, whatever the cause of the outage, be sure to treat all power lines and transformers as energized and stay away from downed power lines. Never try to open a pad mounted transformer, and report all outages to your power supplier.

Here are some more tips on safely dealing with power outages:

- Downed power lines, stray wires, and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.

- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are submerged. The water could be energized.

- Do not turn power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility and have them turn off power at the meter.

Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.

- Do not use water-damaged electric appliances, electronics and other items before having them inspected and properly restored. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some appliances and electronics.

- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, do not use electric equipment in wet conditions.

- If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away and keep others away. Do not drive over it, as snagging the line could pull a pole and other equipment to the ground. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.

- If you come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

- If you use a standby generator, take proper safety precautions. Always read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions. There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances. Operate generators in well-ventilated, outdoor, dry areas. Never attach a temporary generator to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet; plug items into the generator once it's operating.

- Permanent generators should be wired into a house by a qualified electrician and include a transfer switch to prevent feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.



WCE EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED...WCE employees recognized for their years of service to the cooperative were (l-r) Dru Felkins, 15 years of service; Lois Brunkhorst, 20 years of service and Scott Gard, 20 years of service. (Not pictured) Also achieving milestone years of service were: Johnathon Sullins, five years of service; Brandon Heck, 15 years of service; Matt Schellman, 15 years of service; Tiger Fiene, 20 years of service and Robert Minnis, 30 years of service.



WCE BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED...WCE board members recognized for their years of service to the cooperative were (l-r) Robert Simmons, 15 years and Stan Rhodes, 10 years of service.

Youth 2020 RURAL ELECTRIC

Area students prepare to take Washington, D.C. by storm

&

Three area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C. Jacelynn Laws and Mia Phutrakul of Warrensburg High School and Callie Fuehring of Santa Fe High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 19-25 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2020 competition submitted a video of their oral presentation to be judged. The three students with the highest combined written and oral presentation scores were named winners.

West Central's delegates, their teachers and families will be invited to participate in Family Capital Day June 19 in Jefferson City where they will receive a private tour of the State Capitol Building, the Missouri State Archives, and the Supreme Court. Following a banquet and orientation in Jefferson City that evening, Missouri's 100-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 20. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River with delegates from several other states, and tour the Smithsonian Museums.

Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by more than 1,800 delegates from 46 states, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their senators and representatives.

A total of 62 entries were received from five different schools.



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Jacelynn Laws



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Mia Phutrakul



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Callie Fuehring

Tour CYCLE

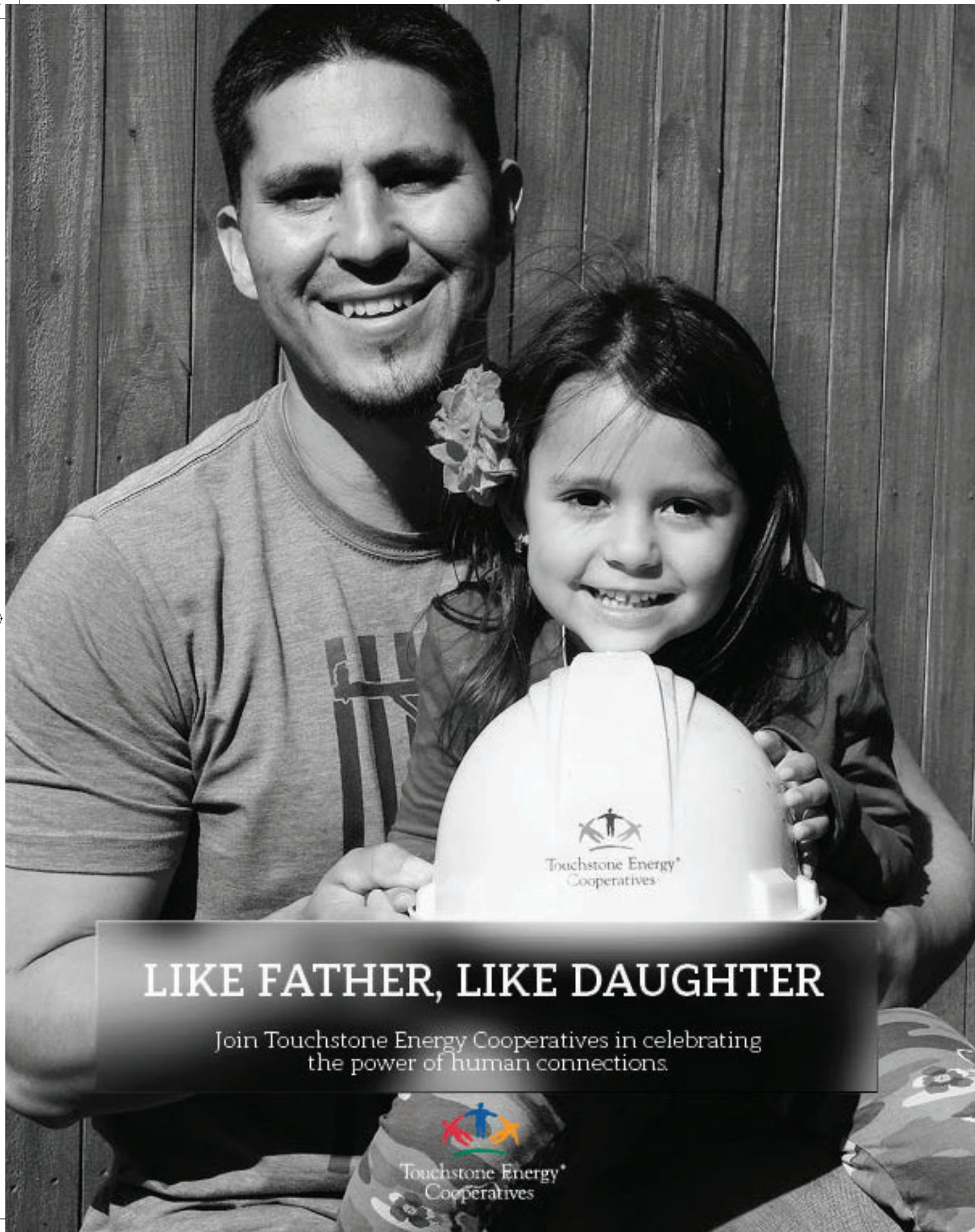
WCE will send five to CYCLE

Five area high school students will represent West Central Electric as delegates at the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience in Jefferson City July 15-17. Finalists competed via a submitted video of their oral presentation, and the following students were named winners of the spots for the 2020 conference: Erin Thessen of Warrensburg High School, Caedon Bergman of Santa Fe High School, and Emily Ikerd, Lauren Turnbow and August Hoeper all of Crest Rdige High School.

While in Jefferson City, students will tour the Missouri State Capitol building, participate in leadership and team-building activities, hear top-notch speakers, and go through the legislative process of drafting their own bill and seeing it through to a vote in the Missouri House of Representatives. Students will have the opportunity to sit in the representatives' seats in the House and debate their bill before putting it to a vote, just as the process happens in real life. They will take a trip to Fulton to tour the Winston Churchill Museum and also learn more about cooperatives and the role they play in our communities.



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the live finals for the 2020 Youth Tour and CYCLE were cancelled, and instead, finalists submitted a video of their oral presentations to be judged. Final word on whether the trips will go on as planned, and what alternate plans would be were unavailable at press time.



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

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the power of human connections.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

Looking to the future...

Planning for the future starts early at Santa Fe High School in Alma, Mo. Students in grades 9-11 participate in a job shadowing experience each year, according to Jennifer Hobbs, school counselor. "These experiences are coordinated by school officials based on the student's Individual & Academic Career Plan," she said. To provide a multitude of opportunities, students in the 9th grade shadow in Marshall; students in the 10th grade shadow in Higginsville and Lexington; and students in the 11th grade shadow in Warrensburg, and bus transportation is provided by the school to each of the communities. Upon return, students are encouraged to discuss their experience with classmates and to provide letters of thanks to community partners. Job shadow events at Santa Fe are a long-standing tradition, with its inception in 2001. Students in the 12th grade may choose to set up their own experience, or to use their days to visit the colleges of their choice.



West Central Electric Operations Manager Randy Burkey-bile explains to Santa Fe High School sophomore Gage Sullivan how the cooperative employees use I-pads in their vehicles to pull up system maps, service orders for the day and other information necessary for the day's work. Sullivan was able to visit job sites and see how linemen prepare for and carry out their jobs each day.

Understanding HVAC

Here are a few words your heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician may use during an inspection or discussion:

COOLING EFFICIENCY — Efficiency in cooling equipment is measured by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio. Look for a SEER of 15 or higher for ENERGY STAR models. If your cooperative offers Take Control & Save rebates, they are for SEER of 17 or higher.

HEATING EFFICIENCY — Efficiency in heating equipment is measured by the heating seasonal performance factor. Look for a HSPF of 8.2 or higher.

HEAT MEASUREMENT — Generally in British thermal units. One BTU is the energy required to raise 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit. In the U.S., the power of HVAC systems (the rate of cooling and dehumidifying or heating) is sometimes expressed in BTU/hour instead of watts.

SPLIT SYSTEM — Refers to the most common type of heating or cooling systems which are a combination of indoor and outdoor units.

If you have to replace your heating and cooling system, Touchstone Energy advises:

- Replace the entire system all at once. Mixing old and new will not be as efficient.
- Before replacing heating, cooling and ventilating equipment, fix other efficiency problems with insulation, caulking, weatherstripping, better windows, etc.
- Once you've tightened up your house, then size the HVAC

equipment.

- Efficiency in cooling equipment is measured by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio. Look for a SEER of 15 for ENERGY STAR models. If your cooperative offers Take Control & Save rebates, they are for a SEER of 17 or above.

- Efficiency in heating equipment is measured by the heating seasonal performance factor. Look for a HSPF of 8.2 or higher.

For more tips, go to https://www.touchstoneenergy.com/sites/tse/files/documents/HVAC_brochure.pdf



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Feb. 25, 2020

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 Shawn Battagler, as well as cooperative 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 January 2020; expenditures for the month of January 2020; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following January reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Michael Newland presented the January 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 year-end financials from West Central Services. He reported on the need to audit the R&S Plan. He reported on January 2020 financials from West Central Services.

AUDITOR: the Board approved hiring Kevin Kelso to conduct the R&S Plan Audit.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on the following: outages; construction; pole changeouts; inspections; safety improvement plan; Safety Committee Report; crew visits; and no lost time accidents.

Engineering Report: Dan Disberger presented the Engineering Report. He reported on the following: new projects in staffing and design phase; challenges relating to trees; solar inspections; and right-of-way update.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on the following: Operation Round Up; community engagement; employee banquet; Heather Hoflander winning NRECA photo of the year award; dealer survey;



rebates; and legislative meetings.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft presented the AMEC Report. Items of interest included: legislative activities relating to the 1500 Rule; written reports included in the Board packet; Rural Missouri update; and AECI update. Gray added to the report regarding clarification on storm assistance rates and international project incident.

NW REPORT

Swisegood presented the NW Report. Items of interest included: outages; legislative activities; and reliability.

NW CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATES

Simmons was named as delegate and Allen, Jr. as alternate.

NW BOARD NOMINEES

Swisegood and Gray were appointed as NW Board Nominees.

LEGAL REPORT

Battagler presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. Items of interest included: Tigers for Troops charity request; international trip member question; and international program participation. The Board guaranteed \$1,360 to the Tigers for Troops program and approved the Manager's Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered into executive session. Following executive session, it was reported that a memorandum was placed in the CEO's file reflecting authority relating to employee compensation as an adjustment to the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • January 2020

	This month	YTD 2020	YTD 2019
Revenue	\$2,935,917	\$2,935,917	\$2,875,735
Power Bill Expense	1,669,239	1,669,239	1,774,819
Operation & Maint. Expense	513,805	513,805	726,774
Depreciation Expense	190,704	190,704	180,253
Interest Expense	116,628	116,628	118,319
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,490,376	2,490,376	2,800,165
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	445,541	445,541	75,570
Other Margins	9,734	9,734	35,918
TOTAL MARGINS	\$455,275	\$455,275	\$111,488

