



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 


# ElectricNews

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**After a year off in 2020 for Covid, the Missouri State Fair and the co-op building were back and better than ever**

**Incumbents are re-elected in mail-in/online election after Covid forces the cancellation of a second in-person annual meeting**

**WCE members will be asked to participate in quality-of-service triennial survey soon.**



**Operation Round Up funds three more community projects during most recent grant period**



# Incumbents re-elected, Allen will stay on as board president

Three incumbents were re-elected to serve an additional three-year term on West Central Electric's Board of Directors during the 2021 election. Jeremy Ahmann, District 1; Clark Bredehoeft, District 2 and Dale Jarman, District 3 all kept their seats on the board.

With the in-person annual meeting cancelled because of Covid gathering restrictions at the University of Central Missouri, the election was held online and via mail-in voting. The election and voting tabulation was administered and carried out by an independent third-party contractor, and certified by the cooperative's attorney following the closing of the election.

## Election Results:

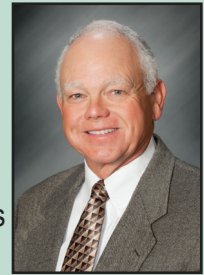
**District 1** -- Jeremy Ahmann 161 votes

**District 2** -- Clark Bredehoeft 103 votes  
Brenda Oliver 90 votes

**District 4** -- Dale Jarman 157 votes

At their re-organizational meeting held during the August board meeting, all officers retained their positions as voted on by the board. Densil Allen, Jr. of Warrensburg will

remain as president; Clark Bredehoeft of Blackburn, will remain as vice president; Dale Jarman of Holden will remain as treasurer, Robert Simmons of Warrensburg will remain as secretary and Stan Rhodes of Corder will remain as assistant secretary.



Allen



Re-elected: Jeremy Ahmann, Clark Bredehoeft and Dale Jarman

## 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](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under "View & Report Outages"

### District office:

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

### Website:

[www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://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 member Waldo Harkness of Knob Noster visits the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the state fair.

**Don't forget to pick up your**

**FREE REFLECTIVE  
HALLOWEEN TREAT BAG**

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

**New Co-op Connections  
member business!**

**Remember to ask us for your  
Co-op Connections card or download the  
app at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop)**



**Jamie's Place**

**10% off your bill**

300 S. Market  
Holden, Mo  
816-732-4346

# Triennial survey may come to members via email, phone call

In mid-October, WCE will be sponsoring a survey that is conducted every three years to measure the quality of service provided to you, our member-owner. This survey will ask several questions about your satisfaction with the cooperative and energy usage.

In this random survey of members, a mixture of online and telephone interviews will be conducted. You may be sent an email invitation to participate in the survey OR you may be sent a postcard in the mail inviting you to participate. Members may also be randomly selected to complete a telephone interview. It should take approximately 12 minutes to answer all questions on the phone. The call center conducting the survey will identify themselves as calling on behalf of West Central Electric Cooperative. They will be conducting calls Monday-Friday from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No Sunday or holiday calling will be conducted. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at WCE at 800-491-3803.



## 2021 MISSOURI STATE FAIR

After a year off due to Covid, the Missouri State Fair was back on for 2021. (Left photo) WCE District Operations Supervisor Scott Gard works the Missouri Electric Cooperatives' Speedway booth during the first weekend of the Missouri State Fair in August. (Above) The Bertz family including Youth Tour alum Jillian (Bertz) Jones, 2013; Alli (Bertz) Chesky, 2016 and Abby Bertz, 2016, make time to visit the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the Missouri State Fair.



# Energy

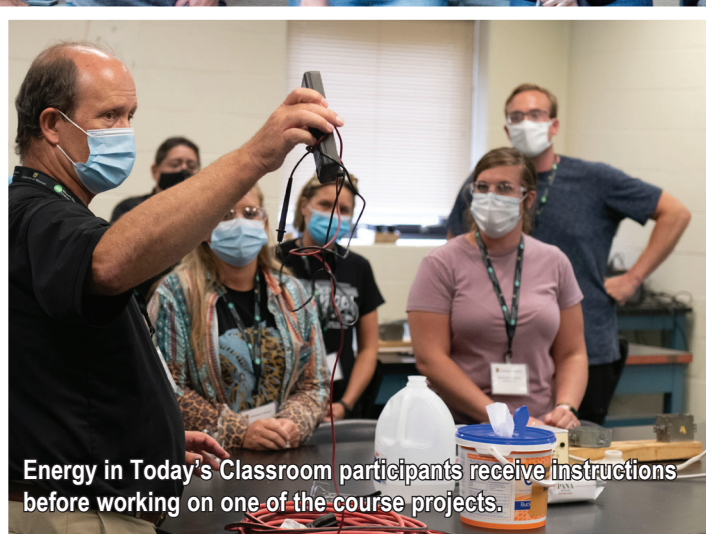
**Program sends knowledge,  
resources back to classroom**

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, Reed Phillips of Oak Grove School District and Stephanie Carpenter of Lafayette County C-I High School, were able to take advantage of just that opportunity.

"As a Social Studies teacher, the knowledge gained from this program will provide me with a base knowledge of energy production and the power infrastructure to provide a deeper understanding of current events and governance for my students," Oak Grove teacher Reed Phillips said. "The recent events in Texas during the polar vortex would be easier to explain with the knowledge provided by this program. Unfortunately, there may be more events similar to that in the future.



**Energy in Today's Classroom** participants receive instructions before working on one of the course projects.

Additionally, several of the visual aids provided by the program will be able to enhance my classroom."

Reed said he could envision incorporating cross-curricular learning in his classroom because of his participation in the program.

"My favorite part of the program was the circuitry projects at the end of the first day," he said. "These teaching aids at Mizzou were quite entertaining to complete. I could see including a similar activity if I were to teach about Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and others during the 2nd Industrial Revolution."

Carpenter said she was impressed with the amount and quality of information that she can see using in her classroom.

"There was so much information presented in such a short amount of

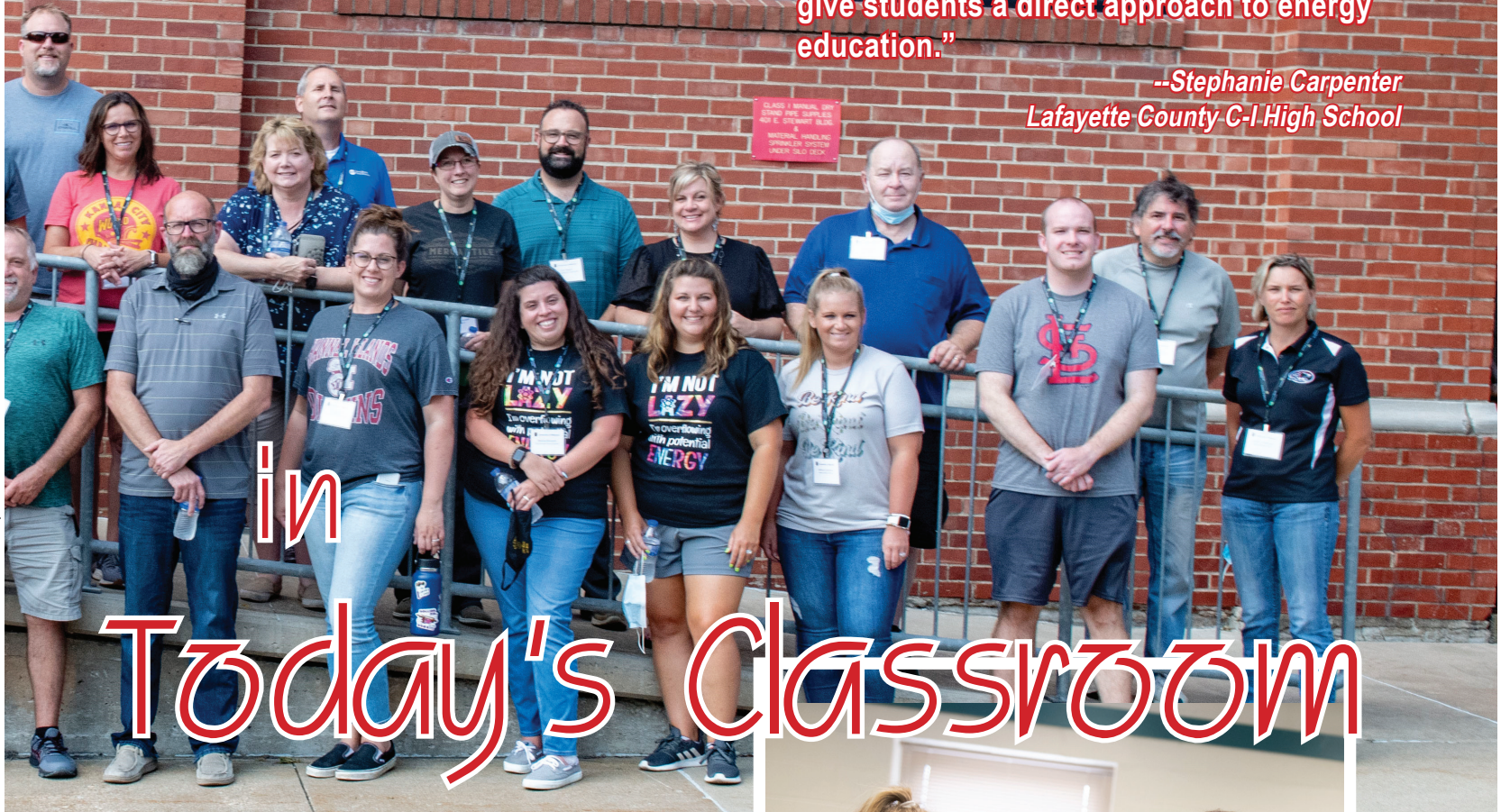




Reed Phillips (center) listens to a presentation about electric vehicles during the Energy in Today's Classroom workshop.

**"I am so thankful to all of the cooperatives that sponsored this program. Energy in Today's Classroom is equipping teachers with the necessary skills and resources to give students a direct approach to energy education."**

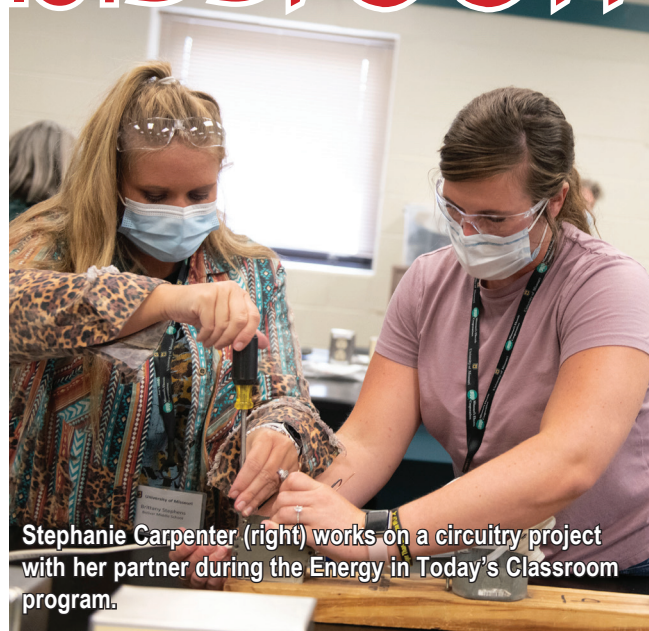
**--Stephanie Carpenter  
Lafayette County C-I High School**



time. It was incredible to deep dive into the different types of energies and learn not only how they are generated but the economic impact they have as well," she said. "Because I now have a better understanding of the energies that are used to run our country, I am able to pass that knowledge on to my students. I now have access to so many resources that I am now able to implement in my classroom. It is my hope that with the utilization of these new resources that my students will become informed consumers of energy, they will develop a respect for energy, they will contribute to the conservation of energy, and that they will walk away with the skills to perform basic electrical maintenance and installation."

Reed encouraged other educators to take advantage of the Energy in Today's Classroom program.

"I am incredibly thankful to West Central Electric Cooperative for providing me this opportunity to learn about Energy in Today's Classroom. I encourage other educators who are even slightly curious about electricity to consider applying for this great program," he said.



Stephanie Carpenter (right) works on a circuitry project with her partner during the Energy in Today's Classroom program.

**For more information on the Energy in Today's Classroom program, contact Brent Scholtzhauer at 800-491-3803 or [brent@wccecoop.com](mailto:brent@wccecoop.com).**



# Round Up funds three Johnson County projects

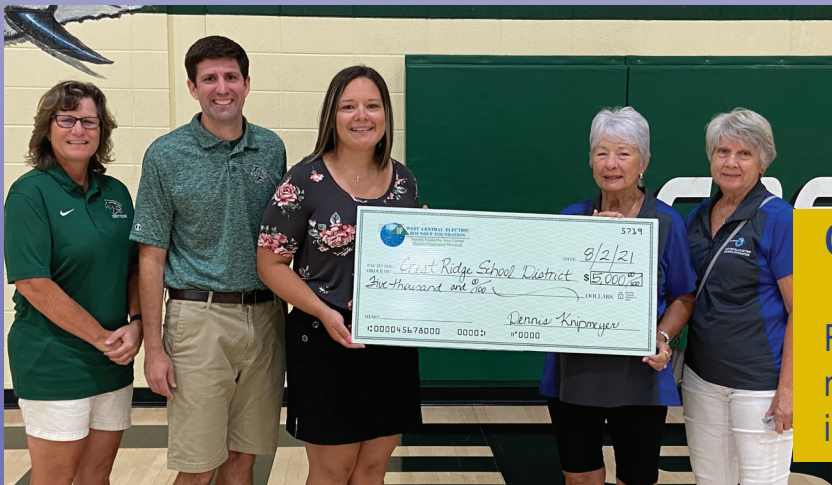


**WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC  
ROUNDUP FOUNDATION**

Proudly Funded by West Central  
Electric Cooperative Members

## The Refuge on Ming \$6,200

Funds will be used to replace 17 windows in  
the homeless shelter.



## Crest Ridge School District \$5,000

Funds will be used to purchase a  
new set of timpani percussion  
instruments.



## Chilhowee School District \$2,500

Funds will be used to provide a collection of hands-  
on learning tools for kindergarten and first grade  
students.



# 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," Operations Manager 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

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***"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***

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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](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop).



# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held July 22, 2021

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 22, 2021, 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 24, 2021; expenditures for the month of June 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the June 2021 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 2021 financials from West Central Services.

Operations and Safety Report: Randy Burkeybile provided the Operations Report. His report included the following: update on crews; outages for the month, a report on equipment, brush and spraying crews, and a right-of-way report.

Safety and Engineering Report: Pete Nelson provided the Safety and Engineering Report. He reported on the following: safety meetings and crew visits. He also reported on the status of engineering and staking projects. He gave an update on solar installations. He reported on the number of days worked without a lost-time accident and the miles driven without a serious accident. Assistance was given to the Johnson County Sheriff's office on a fatal electrocution that did not involve the cooperative. He reported on the potential issues with material shortages that are happening due to COVID.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He gave an update on Co-op Connections and how it will be launched. He has met with six members about the net metered solar system. He investigated a high bill concern. Eleven rebates were approved.



He gave an update on how the membership is being informed of cancellation of the annual meeting and how voting can be done.

## NW REPORT

Gray and Swisegood reported on the July NW board meeting and provided the mid-month AECI report, and reported on outages, wind, and solar. They gave a safety report for NW and discussed controllable expenses. An update was given on the state fair. They also discussed holding a potential meeting at NW's facilities and a tour of a substation that could be done.

## DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE REPORT

Bredehoeft, Jarman, Rhodes, and Simmons reported on the director's conference they attended. They gave updates on cyber security, legislation, PACs, conservation, electric school buses, solar, annual meetings and voting and board assessments.

## WEST CENTRAL ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit reported on applications received and amounts awarded. She reported that the Foundation would like to have promotional items available. The board agreed to donate \$2,000 from the cooperative for the purchase of promotional items.

## DIRECTOR ELECTION REPORT

Gray gave an update on AMEC's director election process.

## REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 2.4

Policy 2.4 was discussed and amended.

## LEGAL REPORT

Smiley reported on legal matters.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. Attendance at the state fair was discussed. The AMEC Annual Meeting was discussed as well as the CFC District 8 meeting. COVID updates were given.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • June 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,446,516</b>	<b>\$15,317,391</b>	<b>\$15,163,852</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,401,547	8,733,782	8,594,234
Operation & Maint. Expense	670,104	3,315,027	3,589,084
Depreciation Expense	202,742	1,202,873	1,153,922
Interest Expense	120,841	696,032	715,606
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,395,234</b>	<b>13,947,714</b>	<b>14,052,846</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	51,282	1,369,677	1,111,006
Other Margins	5,580	59,763	80,976
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$56,862</b>	<b>\$1,429,440</b>	<b>\$1,191,982</b>

