



West Central Electric Cooperative

September 2021

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# ElectricNews

## Youth Tour and CYCLE adapt to 2021

Cooperatives continue  
with annual youth programs  
in new format for 2021

### PAGE 3

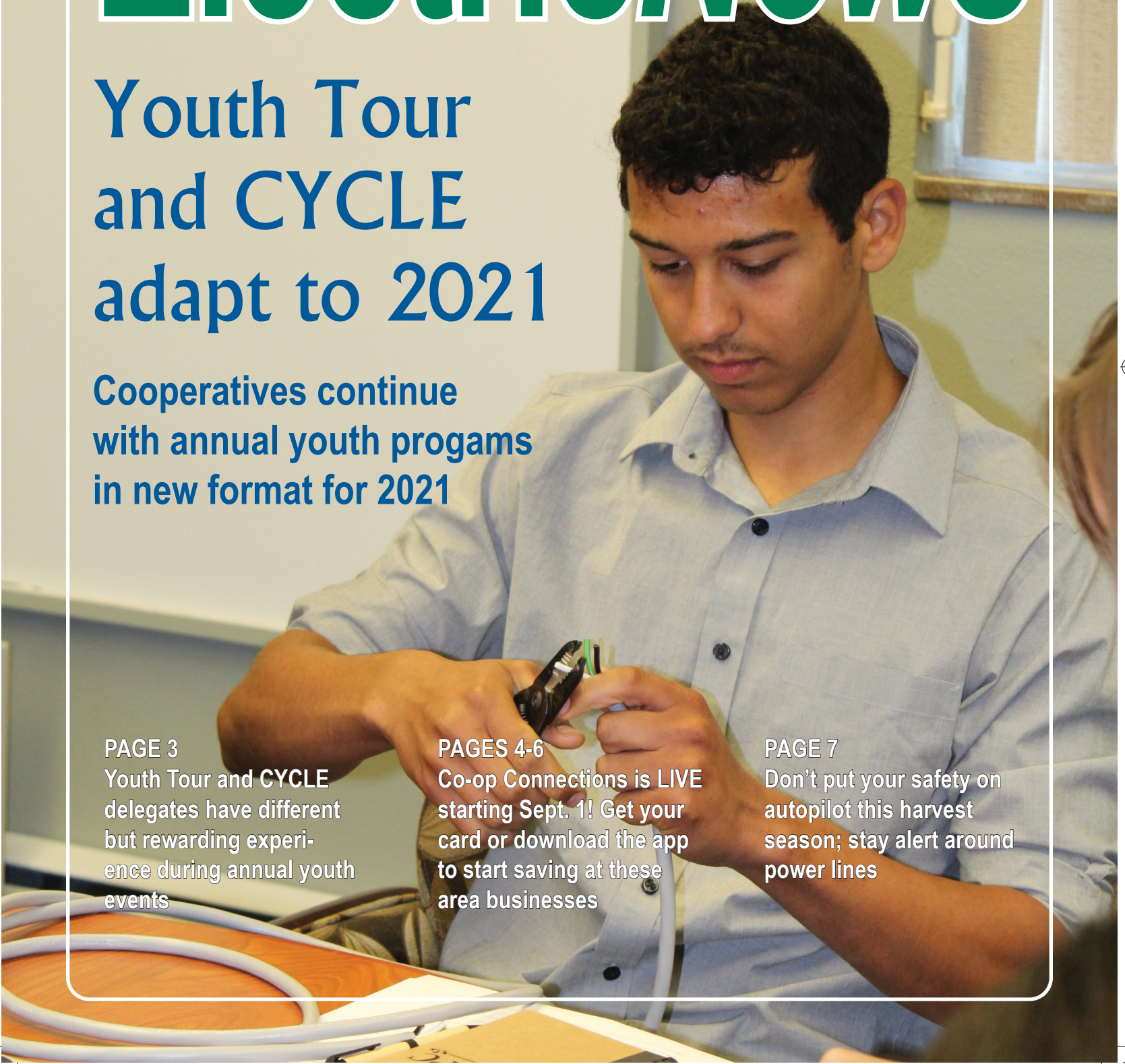
Youth Tour and CYCLE delegates have different but rewarding experience during annual youth events

### PAGES 4-6

Co-op Connections is LIVE starting Sept. 1! Get your card or download the app to start saving at these area businesses

### PAGE 7

Don't put your safety on autopilot this harvest season; stay alert around power lines





## Board of directors election results will be published in October *Electric News*

With the 2021 West Central Electric annual meeting canceled because of Covid gathering restrictions at the University of Central Missouri, members were able to vote in the board of directors election online or by mail-in ballot.

Online voting was open through July 30, with mail-in ballots due no later than 4 p.m. August 13. With voting deadlines and time needed to count and verify votes, results were not available in time for this issue of *Electric News*. Those results will be published in the October issue.

Members may view results prior to that by logging on to [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop), or by visiting our Facebook page.

Directors with terms expiring were District 1--Jeremy Ahmann, District 2--Clark Bredehoeft and District 4 -- Dale Jarman. In District 2, Brenda Oliver was the challenger.

Directors are elected for a three-year term.

### 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:** Youth Tour delegate Cooper Hamlin works on making an extension cord during District Day at the 2021 Youth Tour Experience.

# Youth Tour and CYCLE adapt to 2021

Although they looked quite different this year, Missouri Youth Tour and CYCLE coordinators were determined to give students the best experience possible in 2021, after Covid canceled both trips last year.

With the continued uncertainty of travel and safety concerns, NRECA opted early this year to cancel the 2021 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. In an effort to be consistent, the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives cancelled the traditional CYCLE event normally held in Jefferson City for three days each summer.

"Students knew before entering the contest this winter that the trips were a no-go, but there was still great participation, and we still wanted to give them an experience for that," WCE Youth Tour and CYCLE Coordinator Heather Hoflander said. "AMEC created the 2021 Youth Tour Experience and the 2021 CYCLE Experience where local students could meet at their local cooperatives and with other co-op delegates in their district in smaller groups, and the entire state delegation could meet via Zoom."

Students were able to still meet and network with fellow leaders from their areas of the state, participate in activities and hear amazing speakers like Dan Meers, aka KC Wolf, and Brent Pfeiffer, former Youth Tour delegate and current member of the United States Secret Service.

#### YOUTH TOUR

The 2021 delegates took part in a three-day conference, which offered them opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, serve in leadership positions, ways to serve their community and more. Highlights included the youth participating virtually with representatives from their congressional districts and taking online tours of famous monuments. The group also heard from past Youth Tour delegates, one of which is now a member of the United States Secret Service. These alumni spoke to them about their Youth Tour experiences and how the opportunity helped shape their future college and career choices.

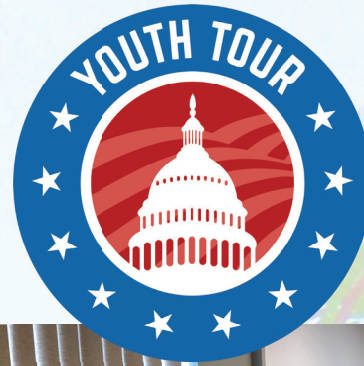
#### CYCLE

Highlights included the youth visiting with Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe about the state of Missouri politics. Other events included participation in electrical related activities, including learning to make an extension cord. The delegates also heard great leadership and positivity messages from Johnie Hendrix, a training instructor for the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, and Travis Mathes, the manager of member services and government affairs at Lewis County Electric Cooperative.





WCE Youth Tour delegates (l-r) Cooper Hamlin, Jessica Snare and Suzy Cooper, and AMEC delegate Briana Frerking attend Youth Tour Experience District Day at NW Electric Cooperative in Cameron, Mo.



It works! Youth Tour delegate Jessica Snare watches as the extension cord she made is tested.



Via Zoom, Dan Meers, aka KC Wolf, addressed both Youth Tour and CYCLE delegates with his motivational message.



Wesley Marten (standing) assists fellow CYCLE delegates in making their extension cords during District Day at NW Electric Cooperative in Cameron.



WCE Engineering Manager Pete Nelson gives CYCLE delegates Lane Rogge and Leslie Martens a tour of the facility.



Download the Co-op Connections  
app at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop)

or

Contact West Central Electric to  
get your Co-op Connections card

# CO-OP CONNECTIONS IS LIVE!

Fall into a wealth of savings by using your  
Co-op Connections card or get the app on  
your phone to start saving  
**WITH THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES TODAY!**

*\*Offers begin Sept. 1, 2021  
additional limits and exclusions may apply*

## Warrensburg:



Awesome Blossoms

**\$5 off your purchase of  
\$20 or more**

212 N. Holden St.  
660-747-7673



Friesz's Donuts

**10% off any yeast product  
after noon daily**

629 E. Young St.  
660-429-6300

## Lexington:



At Ease Coffee  
& Design

**20% off one drink with  
purchase of vendor product**

*\*Offer good 1x per month*  
912 Main St.  
816-204-1849

Riverside  
Nutrition

**\$2 off per visit plus extra  
\$1 off for social media  
post tagging Riverside  
Nutrition**

1027 Franklin Ave.  
660-259-3227

PAT'S ARMY &  
SPORTING GOODS

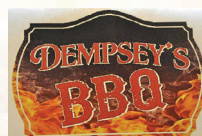
Sporting Goods, Letter Jackets,  
New & Used Guns and Licenses

Pat's Army &  
Sporting Goods

**Graduation year patch  
50% off with purchase  
of a letter jacket**

1202 Main St.  
660-259-3462

## Concordia:



Dempsey's BBQ

**Free drink with  
purchase of an adult meal**

*\*Limit one per visit*  
103 NE 2nd St.  
660-463-7232



## Higginsville:



Arcadian Moon

**15% off ONE food item**  
**Sunday through Thursday**

*\*Limit one per order*  
19203 W. Old 40 Highway  
660-584-6661



Glam Guru, LLC

**\$20 off a full set**  
**of eyelash extensions**

*\*One-time use, new clients only*  
200 Fairground Ave.  
(inside Hair Grafix)  
816-565-5268



Hoflander Ford

**\$2 off oil change**  
**10% off accessories**

*\*Accessories offer excludes labor*  
1807 Main St.  
660-584-2151



Hannah Bananas  
Coffee & More

**\$2 off any purchase**  
**of \$10 or more**

*\*One-time use only*  
Offer good at Higginsville,  
Lexington & Clinton locations  
2009 Walnut St. Higginsville  
906 Main St. Lexington  
1669 N. 2nd St. Clinton



Pigeon's Nest Floral  
Design & Gifts

**10% off one dozen roses**  
**for Valentine's Day 2022**

1902 Main St.  
660-584-2299



Shades Salon

**Buy 10 tans, get one free**  
**Buy 10 red light sessions,**  
**get one free**

500 Fairground Ave.  
660-584-7745



Banner-Coulson  
Chevrolet

**10% discount on oil**  
**changes**

*\*Limit one-time use per customer*  
3401 Highway 13 Blvd.  
660-584-2175

**Generations**  
**Cafe**

**Complimentary coffee**  
**with purchase of any**  
**breakfast item**

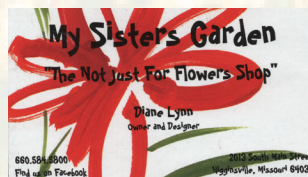
*\*One-time use per customer*  
1911 N. Main St.  
660-584-7727



Higginsville Printing

**First Friday of each month**  
**take 10% off new**  
**business card orders**

1808 Main St.  
660-584-7721



My Sister's Garden

**20% off prom corsage**  
**& boutonniere**

*\*Both must be ordered together*  
2013 S. Main St.  
660-584-5800



Pure Life Photography

**Upgrade your 16x20**  
**wall portrait to a 20x24**  
**at no charge**

1906 Main St.  
660-584-7873



Sign Gypsies  
of Lafayette County

**\$5 off sign rental**

*\*One use per year*  
*\*Graduation set-ups excluded*  
Covering Lafayette County  
816-405-8784



## Higginsville continued:



Vitality

**\$2 off mega teas on Wednesdays**

1721 N. Main St.  
660-641-4385



Alumbaugh, Inc.  
Heating & Cooling

**\$20 off a service call within a 40-mile radius of Higginsville**

*\*Must show card or app.*  
2011 Shelby St.  
660-584-3401

## Odessa:



Odessa Nutrition

**Free regular tea (\$5 value) with purchase of a shake**

*\*Offer good Tues.-Wed.-Thurs.*  
*\*Bring a friend, they get \$2 off their purchase*  
104 S. 2nd St.  
816-328-6583



Odessa Diesel Repair

**10% off total bill**

*\*Offer excludes inspection or alignment*  
315 W. Mason St.  
816-230-4802

## Mayview:



Dave's Corner Garage

**\$5 off oil change**

*\*Limit one time per customer*  
500 W. Long St.  
660-237-4545



Michelle's Place

**Free kid's meal with the purchase of one adult meal**

400 W. Marshall St.  
660-237-4433

## Oak Grove:



Abe Thompson RV  
Service Center

**10% off all repairs up to \$2,000**

*(Discounts are always offered to military and first responders)*  
510 N. Broadway  
816-690-2163



Oak Grove Chiropractic

**10% off massage, Free chiropractic consultation**

705 S. Broadway  
816-625-1598



STG Feed & Animal Health

**\$5 off a \$50 purchase**

*\*Offer good for use once per month*  
605B S. Broadway  
816-625-1018

## Holden:



K&A Creations  
Crafter's Market

**20% off one item any time**

114 W. 3rd St.  
816-877-6892

**More businesses are joining the Co-op Connections Program every month!**

**Check out our website at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) for a complete list of participating businesses!**



# Don't put safety on autopilot

Harvest is upon us!

Accuracy and consistency when planting make for impressive straight rows that also help maximize potential productivity. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology is helping farmers do just that. It can provide farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance, and tractor guidance. While it can help with driver error, it does not mean that safety can be put on autopilot. Safe Electricity provides tips to help keep farm workers safe.

GPS systems with auto-guidance allow drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the tractor maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently maintain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity.

"It's important to remember that farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of their large size, height, and extensions," says Rich McCracken, member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. "Every farm worker should especially look for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field, and driving the equipment home or to a barn."

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with automatic steering, farm workers need to keep safety top of mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and appropriate safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels (sub-meter, decimeter, or centimeter) and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action themselves if necessary.



Regardless of what technology you use on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines. A driver's vantage point from the cab may not be sufficient.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when raising any equipment such as ladders, front-end loaders, or augers.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.
- If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.
- The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

*For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*



# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held June 24, 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, June 24, 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. Miles Figg, attorney for 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, Kevin Kelso, CPA and Figg.

## PRESENTATION OF AUDIT

Kelso gave the biennial audit presentation for the cooperative. He reported that the internal controls were good based on the size of the organization, there was no fraud and no non-compliance noted, the cooperative was in compliance with all debt covenants, no adjustments were recommended, and, ultimately, that the audit resulted in an un-modified opinion. The board discussed and asked many questions about the financial statements of the cooperative that were presented as part of the audit. Kelso then left the meeting.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2021; expenditures for the month of May 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

**Financing and Treasurer's Report:** Newland presented the May 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 May 2021 financials from West Central Services. The NW capital credit refund was given.

**Operations Report:** Gray provided the Operations Report. His report included the following: update on crews; outages for the month, including the June 11 that resulted in the loss of about 10 poles; brush and spraying crews, including that the spray crew is scheduled to begin on June 21; right of way reports and the need to order two bucket trucks that will be in the 2022 budget but will not be delivered until 2023.

**Safety and Engineering Report:** Gray 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, gave an update on solar installations, reported on the number of days worked without a lost-time accident and the miles driven without a serious accident. He discussed issues with material shortages and lead time on materials, and the board discussed the three-phase poles that were lost in the June 11 storm.

**Member Services Report:** Brent Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. He provided a list of school scholarship awards ceremonies his department has attended this year. He discussed preparations for the Cooperative Youth Tour Experience and gave an update on the Co-op Connections Program and the communities visited. He gave updates on Youth Tour and CYCLE. He also reported that solar and wind are under budget. The board discussed the ARDOF Auction that was awarded to Charter Spectrum and will serve broadband internet widely within the footprint of the cooperative. The board discussed Charter Spectrum's broadband service in connection with discussions about whether the cooperative should provide broadband service, and Charter



Spectrum's broadband provides a good business justification for the cooperative to not provide broadband service.

## NW REPORT AND AMEC REPORT

Gray reported on the May NW Board Meeting and provided the mid-month AECI report, and reported on outages, wind, and solar. He also gave an update on a medical insurance policy that is being reviewed. AECI will hold their annual meeting virtually on June 23, 2021. Clark Bredehoeft reported on the June 9 AMEC District 1 Meeting, which was the first meeting to be held at headquarters since the start of the COVID pandemic. He reported on the approval of the Executive Committee reports, the presentation by the president of Farm Bureau, and the Legislative Committee report, including specifically that the annexation bill that passed. He reported that AECI is purchasing IronDome security software that will benefit and provide security at all RECs across the state. He also reported that the cooperative would be sponsoring a team to participate in the lineman rodeo if there is interest by employees of the cooperative to participate.

## APPOINT AMEC BOARD MEMBER AND VOTING REPRESENTATIVES

Bredehoeft was appointed as the AMEC voting member and Gray as the alternate for the October AMEC annual meeting.

## DIRECTOR ELECTION UPDATE

Gray reported on annual meeting and director elections. He reported that the Annual Meeting Notice of Cancellation has already been sent, providing guidance to the members for voting in the director elections, and the Board reviewed the print-ed-paper ballots. Mike Gray demonstrated the process for voting online.

## LEGAL REPORT

Figg presented a report on legal matters.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report and updated the board on the Summer Summit meeting that took place in San Antonio.

## DISCUSSION ON POLICY REGARDING PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

Jarman reported on the suggested revisions for Policy 2.4 which deals with the participation of the board at the board meetings. Discussion on the policy was tabled until the July board meeting so that revised language for Policy 2.4 can be discussed and voted on by the board.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Strobel discussed the average age of the board, in context with the average age of board members across all RECs, and the Tesla charging station in Higginsville.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • May 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,847,580</b>	<b>\$12,870,764</b>	<b>\$12,964,574</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,221,007	7,332,235	7,145,322
Operation & Maint. Expense	472,792	2,644,923	2,959,316
Depreciation Expense	202,153	1,000,131	960,143
Interest Expense	114,653	575,191	589,585
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,010,605</b>	<b>11,552,480</b>	<b>11,654,366</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(163,025)	1,318,284	1,310,208
Other Margins	5,951	54,184	72,371
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$(157,074)</b>	<b>\$1,372,468</b>	<b>\$1,382,579</b>

