



West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

We are your
rural electric
cooperative

Annual meeting will be
held in-person this year

PAGE 2

WCE allocates capital credits for 2022. Find out how to figure what goes into your capital credits allocation account

PAGES 4-5

Get to know the members vying for a position on the WCE Board of Directors. Profiles printed inside this issue

PAGE 6

Bylaw change regarding publishing of Unclaimed Monies is up for consideration at August annual meeting.

• ANNUAL MEETING SPECIAL EDITION •

Cooperative will return \$1.5 million in capital credits to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return \$1.5 million to its members in capital credits refunds in July, according to WCE Finance Manager Michael Newland.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in August for all active members. A check will be mailed to non-members the first part of July.

If you purchased electricity from the cooperative during the years **listed in the box to the right**, you should receive a check or credit. Checks will not be issued for amounts under \$5.00.

"If a member is on our level payment program, the credit will not affect their monthly amount due," Newland said. "The credit will be applied to the balance on the account."

"If a member has multiple accounts, the credits will be applied based on the previous month's bill; largest balance first, then the next until fully applied. If there are no current balances on the account, the credit will be applied to the primary account, the account that West Central has determined as holding the main membership," he said.

If a member has multiple accounts, and would like the credit applied to a different account than the one determined by the cooperative, members may call the office and request a transfer to the account of their choice.

If you do not see a credit on your account, and feel you should have, you may contact Newland at 1-800-491-3803.

Capital Credits refunded in 2022

Capital credits will appear as a credit to your electric account on your **August** billing.

Credits being distributed this year:

100% of all allocations for 2001 and 2002

75% of all allocations for 2003

If you were were a member of the cooperative during this year, you should receive a refund.

Please direct capital credits questions to Michael Newland in the Higginsville office: 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

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.

2022 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting of members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, August 5, 2022 on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg

The meeting will feature:

1. The report of officers, directors and committees,
2. The election of ONE director each from District 1, District 2 and District 4 to serve until the third succeeding annual meeting of the members, or until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified. The following members have been nominated for directors:

District 1

Don Fore, Oak Grove, Mo.
Colby Dowell, Odessa, Mo.

District 2

Stan Rhodes, Corder, Mo.

District 4

Sandra Streit, Holden, Mo.

3. The voting on revisions to cooperative bylaws, and
4. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment

Robert D. Simmons

Robert Simmons, Secretary
July 11, 2022



ON THE COVER: Lineman Tucker Crowe works to help set a new pole in rural Lafayette County.

WCE 83rd Annual Meeting Aug. 5, 2022

UCM Multipurpose Building
500 S. Washington St. Warrensburg, Mo.

Evening Schedule:

5:00 p.m.

- ◆ Registration begins. All registered members will receive a \$25 energy credit. Must be present to receive.
- ◆ Old-fashioned co-op barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, chips and cookies, tea & lemonade. Meals will be served to the first 1,300 members and guests in attendance.
- ◆ Informational booths and displays open at east end of Multi.

6:45 p.m.

- ◆ Youth Tour presentation

6:50 p.m.

- ◆ Introduction of West Central Electric and John & Kathryn English scholars
- ◆ Introduction of Round Up Foundation board members

7:00 p.m.

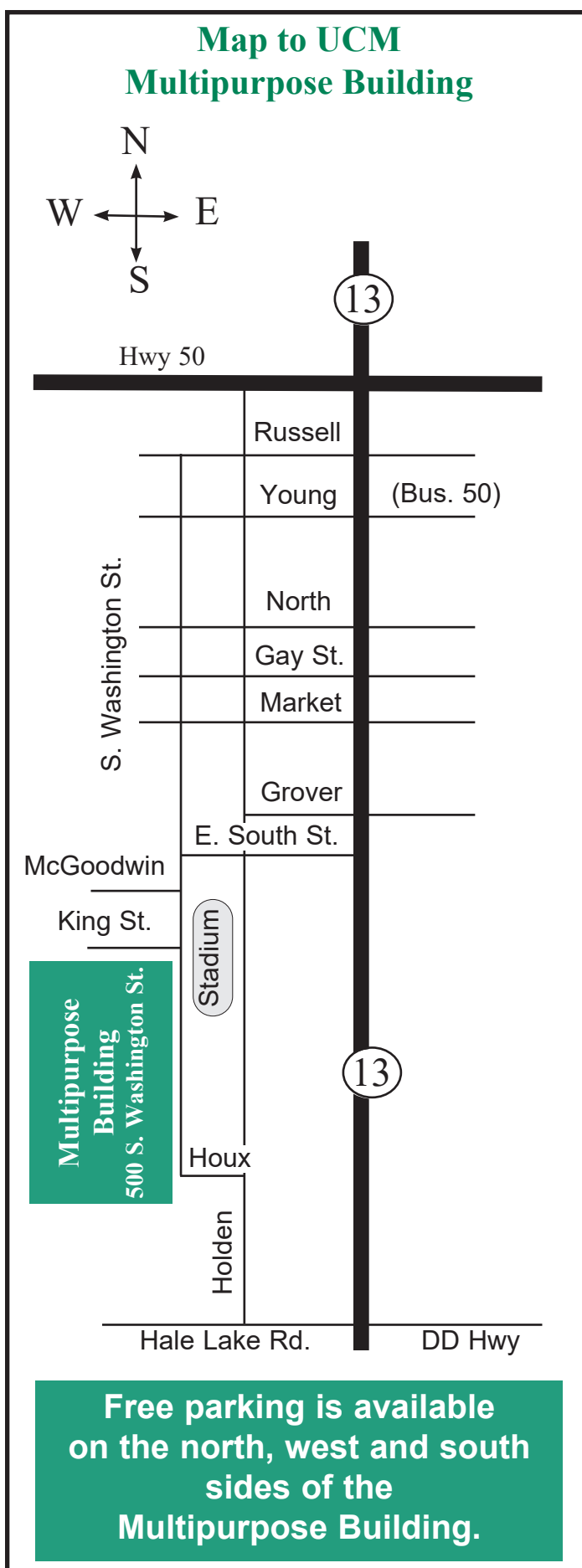
- ◆ Business Meeting -- approval of minutes (located on page 6), reports of business, bylaw election (language on page 6) and election of directors (profiles on pages 4-5.)

PRIZE DRAWINGS:

- ◆ 40" Vizio D-Series SmartTV donated by NW Electric
- ◆ \$25, \$50, \$100 energy certificates
- ◆ One month FREE electricity! (Residential account only, applies to the bill due in September)
- ◆ Kids' prizes: girl's and boy's bike with helmets, stuffed Buddy Bear mascots and more!

INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS:

- ◆ Kids' Safety Area with giveaways, safety demonstrations, and meet Rural Missouri's Buddy Bear
- ◆ Health screenings from Johnson County Community Health Services
- ◆ Meet the WCE linemen
- ◆ Glaucoma & macular degeneration screenings by Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- ◆ Operation Round Up booth
- ◆ Take Control and Save energy-efficiency booth & more!



West Central Electric Cooperative • 2022 Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT

1

Candidate

Don Fore
Oak Grove, Mo.



Incumbent

Occupation: Retired math teacher

Family: Joan, wife; Tim, son; Tonni Smith, daughter

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

Attend First Baptist Church, Oak Grove
KCMCMC (Kansas City Metro Men's Chorus)
Former Oak Grove Board of Education (18 years)

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative?

My interest in keeping a representative in the Oak Grove area. Having been served by West Central Electric for 55 years, I want to give back to the organization. Serving 18 years on Oak Grove Board of Education.

What are your goals for your next three-year term?

- 1) Learn as much as possible about West Central Electric.
- 2) Figure in helping make the right decisions for the good of West Central Electric.
- 3) Keeping the services to customers at the most affordable costs.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

Inflation and all related issues

Additional comments: None

DISTRICT

1

Candidate

Colby Dowell
Odessa, Mo.



Occupation: Executive Director of the Lafayette County Children's Services Fund

Family: N/A

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong:

As previously stated, I am the Executive director of the LCCSF. We redistribute over \$400,000 of sales tax collected within Lafayette County each year. I am also joining the local Rotary clubs in Lafayette County. I am a member of the St. Luke Church in Wellington.

Why did you agree to run for election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? I am running for this position on the board because I am always looking forward to the possibility to serve around me. With that being said, I have a Bachelor's degree in Communication with a dual minor in Business Administration and Leadership. I chose these refinements in post-secondary education because they are the most crucial areas to any business. I feel that with the combination of education and my personable approach I can serve the Cooperative effectively.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? First, I will familiarize myself with all policy, procedure and inner workings of the Cooperative. Then I will be able to provide quality input on any subject the board might face with a youthful perspective. After becoming familiar with the Board and establishing relationships, I would enjoy joining any committee that had vacancy. Most importantly I would enjoy the Scholarship Committee. As I was once a WCE scholarship winner when I made the transition to post-secondary education. I would also like to be a youthful resource as WCE moves into a new technological era of services. Overall, I want to become as involved as possible.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? In my opinion, there are a lot of new incentives to join solar in the County. I can see where this may create an issue of desired services from our members. I believe that keeping costs down from plant generation to household distribution is key to keeping WCE members happy and loyal to the Cooperative.

Additional comments: At the end of the day, I enjoy being able to contribute to the wellbeing of those around me. I feel that joining the WCE Board would be a great way for me to serve our community further. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

***Members will vote for ONE (1) candidate each from District 1, District 2 and District 4**

West Central Electric Cooperative • 2022 Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT

2

Candidate

Stan Rhodes

Corder, Mo.



Occupation: Farmer

Family: Wife, Vicky; two daughters: Madie and husband, Dane; Bailey and husband, Atticus; three sons: Spencer, Mason and wife, Missy; Beau and wife, Katie; eight grandchildren: Marley, Roman, Ian, Ellie, Dax, Laurel, Emmy and Levi.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Corder Lions Club, Soybean Association, Corn Growers Association, John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee and West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship Committee

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? The board of directors plays a vital role in making the decisions that keep our co-op running smoothly and efficiently. I have enjoyed being on this board for the previous 12 years, and feel I have the time it takes to attend our local and state meetings, as well as fulfill any other obligations of being a director.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? My goals for the next three years are to continue to educate myself more about the electricity business, keep rates as low as possible and help the co-op maintain and improve the reliable service we expect as members.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Government and environmental issues are always two of the main concerns co-ops have to address. We need to keep our elected officials informed and educated on how their decisions can affect our cooperative.

Additional comments: I want to thank all the members for their past support. The 12 years I have served on this board have been a privilege, and I look forward to serving the cooperative in the future.

DISTRICT

4

Candidate

Sandra Streit

Holden, Mo.



Occupation: Sales manager for Tri-Meats, Inc, an international meat and poultry sales and processing company

Family: Married to Marshall Streit, FFA Advisor and Agricultural Education Instructor at Cass Career Center; one daughter, Rylee, a Tillage Specialist for John Deere based in Sioux Falls, SD and one son, Garrett, an assistant trainer for King Show Horses, Tioga, TX

Community groups and organizations, church, etc.: Holden Senior Center Board member/volunteer, WCE board liaison to WCEF, Johnson County representative for State Advisory Committee, University of Missouri Extension.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? I find it rewarding and important to be involved in the community. We, as a board, seek to position the co-op for the future energy marketplace. This is an ever-evolving task, one I wish to continue to work toward. I tend to be analytical and very open in generating ideas as well as listening to other ideas. Staying open to change and new solutions is very important for our business. We don't always have to sit back and watch what others do. We need to be strong in our objectives with WCE, delivering quality electric service at the best value to our members, in addition to supporting the causes and struggles of our members.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? Creating an environment suitable for maintaining our cooperative's service goals is very important to me. As a distribution co-op, generation of electricity is not our job. We are here to serve the membership. How to best balance new technologies with member needs is a top priority. Broadband internet service and renewable energy sources are on the minds of members. As a board member, it is my responsibility to balance those interests with the costs bore by all. Similarly, I believe focusing on finding the best way to engage members, and offer support to their goals should be considered in our decision making process.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? I am not sure this will ever change in my lifetime--natural resources, their sourcing and regulation is what I believe to be our biggest issue; whether it be the harvest of coal or the best way to address the desire for renewables. This is a long-term business, with many layers of comprehension. Addressing energy generation with narrow vision is not reasonable. We have to find balance, while constantly pushing our industry to work smarter; challenge the norm, but respect the knowledge we have gained from those same past experiences.

Additional comments: Being a part of this organization has been a very rewarding experience. Often times it is complicated conversations with many points of view. It is challenging, but very rewarding when as a board, we come together for the best of the cooperative.

● Proposed Bylaw Amendment ●

The Board of Directors recommends to the membership a revision to Article VII of the cooperative's bylaws. The section which contains the proposed change follows in this newsletter. Language proposed to be deleted is shown as a ~~strike through~~. Language proposed to be added is highlighted in **green color**. The following proposed change will appear on ballots to be voted on at the August 5, 2022 Annual Meeting of Members.

Article VII

Disposition of Revenues and Receipts

Section 2. Unclaimed Money

Notwithstanding any provisions herein contained to the contrary, any member, former member or customer who fails to claim any capital credits, patronage refunds, utility deposits, membership fees or account balances within two years after payment thereof has been made available to such person, shall have made an irrevocable assignment and gift to the cooperative of such unclaimed money. Upon expiration of at least two years after availability of such money, the cooperative shall give at least sixty days notification by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county within the cooperative's service area of the last known address or last service location of the member, former member or customer. Such notice shall ~~contain the owner's name, approximate amount and type of owner's interest, and that if not duly~~

~~claimed within sixty days of said notice~~ **state the web page and/or other sources(s) that can be accessed to view the owner's name and approximate amount of owner's interest and that if not duly claimed within sixty (60) days of said notice being printed in the newspaper,** the unclaimed money shall be deemed assigned and donated to the cooperative. If no provable claim shall have been filed within sixty days, after the publication of said notice, the cooperative shall after offsetting any outstanding amounts due and owing the cooperative from said member, former member or customer, thereafter treat the net unclaimed amount as donated capital of the cooperative, includable in the fiscal year in which the sixtieth day after publishing notice falls. After first treating the unclaimed money of any member, former member or customer as donated capital, any future unclaimed money of that member, former member or customer shall be treated as donated capital without notice

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members, August 2, 2019

To be approved at Aug. 5, 2022 Annual Meeting of Members

**Due to COVID restrictions and an Order and Exemption from the Missouri State Governor meetings were not held in 2020 and 2021.*

The 80th Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "cooperative"), was held at the Multipurpose Building on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Johnson County, State of Missouri, on Friday, August 2, 2019, pursuant to the bylaws of the Cooperative and notice to membership.

Registration began at 5 p.m. and a meal was served.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business session was called to order by Densil Allen, Jr., president of the cooperative, at 7 pm. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept.

Youth Tour representative Abby Fowler led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Emma Allen sang the National Anthem. A prayer of invocation was offered by director Richard Strobel.

President Allen introduced special guests in attendance at the meeting and the board of directors.

The president called on attorney Sheri Smiley to verify the presence of a quorum. Smiley reported that the quorum formula required the presence of 141 members and 755 members were registered at 6:30 p.m. It was therefore ordered that a quorum was established for the transaction of business.

Smiley presented the agenda of the meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the agenda was adopted as printed.

Simmons presented the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to waive the reading of the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. He referred attention to the minutes of the 2018 annual meeting printed in the July issue of West Central Electric News with the Notice of Meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes as printed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Allen presented the President's Report recounting the business and activities of the cooperative since the last annual meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Dale Jarman presented Treasurer's Report. He directed attention to the financial information contained in the meeting program that was drawn from the audited records of the cooperative. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

DIRECTOR ELECTION

Allen called on Paul Nolte to present the report of the director Nominating Committee. Nolte affirmed that the committee nominated Max Swisegood from District 1, Stan Rhodes from District 2 and Sandra Streit from District 4.

Smiley conducted the election of directors. She noted that there were no nominations received by petition. She noted that since there were single candidates from all three districts that it was appropriate to elect Swisegood, Rhodes and Streit by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Swisegood from District 1, Rhodes from District 2 and Streit from District 4.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Mike Gray presented the Manager's Report updating the membership on operations, maintenance, finances, right-of-way maintenance programs, and storm outages.

ADJOURNMENT

Smiley asked for any unfinished or new business. There was no new or unfinished business brought forth.

On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership meeting was adjourned.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes.

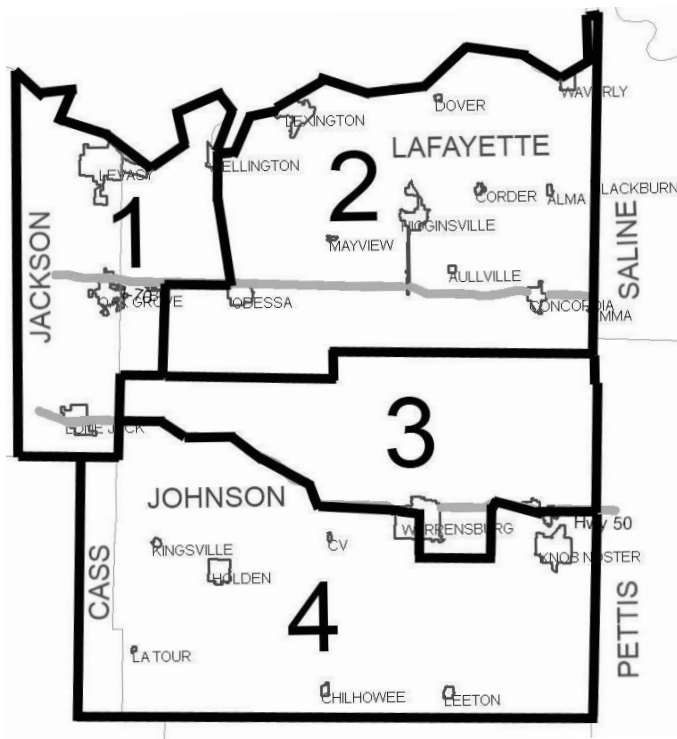
2022 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Members of the 2022 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met May 12, 2022 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees were: District 1-- incumbent Don Fore and challenger Colby Dowell; District 2 -- incumbent Stan Rhodes and District 4 -- incumbent Sandra Streit. Members will vote on one director from each district. Members of the Nominating Committee are: District 1, Adam Heater; District 2, Lance Tieman and Paul Nolte; District 3, Virginia Haller and Jeremy Sanders; District 4, Verna Jenkins and William Grauberger and District 5, Stephanie Othic.



Nominating Committee (l-r) Stephanie Othic, Paul Nolte, Adam Heater, Lance Tieman, Virginia Haller, William Grauberger, and Jeremy Sanders. (Not pictured: Verna Jenkins)

West Central Electric Cooperative DISTRICT MAP



LEGEND

County lines ———
District boundaries ———

*District 5 is an "At-Large" district, and therefore encompasses the entire service area.

Memo on seasonal connections...

Members requesting seasonal connections on meters for wells, irrigation systems, etc. are asked to have either the map number or pole number available when they call in. Having one of these pieces of information will help cooperative employees ensure the right meter is being connected at your location. Please direct any questions to WCE at 816-565-4942 or 800-491-3803.

MAIL-IN BALLOT PROCEDURES

Members who are unable to attend the 83rd annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, may still participate in the board of directors election by mail-in ballot.

- You must submit a request for a voting packet either by calling the office and requesting a packet to be sent to you, or by mailing in the form that was included with your June bills.
- All requested ballots will be mailed to members after July 6, 2022.
- Once you receive your voting packet, you may cast your vote and follow the instructions to send the ballots to the cooperative's attorney.
- Marked ballots must arrive NO LATER THAN Aug. 4, 2022 at the cooperative attorney's office in order to have the votes included in the count.
- Members who are able to attend the meeting may still vote in person at the meeting and do not have to submit a mail-in ballot.

Questions regarding the mail-in voting procedures may be directed to Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Following is the bylaw article which allows voting by mail-in ballot:

Article III

Meetings of Members

Section 5. Voting

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, or by mail-in ballot, in addition to those voting by any other lawful means established by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of said meeting and specified in the notice of the meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws.

Section 6. Proxies

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 28, 2022

The meeting, was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Cooperative Attorney Sheri Smiley, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen, Clark Bredehoeft, Robert Simmons, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Donald Fore and Jeremy Ahmann. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray and CFO Michael Newland.

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 March 24, 2022; expenditures for the month of March 2022; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following february reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the March 2022 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. A letter was received by Quarry City regarding an increase in fees. The board consensus was to explore other options. He provided the Form 7 for 2021 for review.

Operations Report: Operations Manager Randy Burkybile provided a written Operations Report and presented the report to the board. His report included the following: update on crews, outages for the month, a mechanic's report, and updates on brush crews and right-of-way. There were no major outages for the month. One of the trucks that was ordered has been received. He reported that bucket/digger truck orders for new trucks are now out for estimated delivery in 2026. Bids for the wire reel storage building that will be placed in the pole yards are being collected.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided a written Safety and Engineering Report and presented the report to the board. Safety meetings, crew visits, and an engineer/staking department report was given. Training on CDL and drug and alcohol testing was given. A report on new loads was also provided

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up, scholarship applications, English Scholarship winners and Youth Tour Winners. A total of 167 members have been enrolled in the Co-op Connections Card program. Solar systems and rebates given were also reported on as well as chamber meetings attended.

EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT

Newland reported on the accountant's meeting he attended and gave updated information regarding questions surrounding the eligibility of the cooperative for the Employee Retention Credit. Discussion was tabled until November 2022.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave the written reports which included legislative updates,



net metering, communications, risk management and training.

NW REPORT

All board members that attended the N.W. Annual Meeting gave updates. Simmons reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting held April 20. He reported on the board election. The annual meeting for 2023 will be April 11th and April 12th at the same location

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Jarman reported 15 students each received a \$1,300 scholarship and that the English Scholarship Committee gave three scholarships.

OPERATION ROUND UP

Streit reported on grants awarded and the new officers that were elected for the Round Up Board.

ANNUAL MEETING AND BYLAW CHANGE

The annual meeting will be held at the University of Central Missouri with a meal. The menu was discussed. Voting will be by mail or in-person. A \$25 energy credit will be given to those who register at the meeting. A bylaw change was recommended. (See page 6 for language.)

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. He reported roofing bids were received to repair the ceiling leaks at a cost of \$8,618.00. Right-of-Way budget was discussed and bids for doing additional right-of-way clearing was discussed. He recommended amending the budget by \$500,000.00 to do additional right-of-way clearing. The motion passed. A wage and salary survey is being done by Dan Brunning to be completed by August. CFC is scheduled to visit this month and will have a Missouri's director's conference Aug. 17-18.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Streit reported on the conference she attended in Austin, Tex.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into executive session at 12:17 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2022

	This month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Revenue	\$2,832,918	\$9,474,474	\$8,892,491
Power Bill Expense	1,548,302	5,178,556	4,850,705
Operation & Maint. Expense	550,041	1,681,901	1,635,717
Depreciation Expense	209,777	625,707	596,756
Interest Expense	117,368	334,721	345,826
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,425,488	7,820,885	7,429,004
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	407,430	1,653,589	1,463,487
Other Margins	37,172	53,350	42,600
TOTAL MARGINS	\$444,602	\$1,706,939	\$1,506,087

