



West Central Electric Cooperative

March 2022

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ElectricNews

Stay safe in spring storms

Storms and storm damage may
be inevitable, so keep yourself
as safe as possible during
severe weather events
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WCE District 1 director
Max Swisegood retires
after 24 years of serving
the cooperative

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Operation Round Up
funds first quarter
community projects

PAGE 7

Energy in Today's Classroom
is looking for area teachers
to attend the 2022 program



Max Swisegood is presented with a plaque for his 24 years of service to the cooperative by General Manager Mike Gray.

Swisegood announces his retirement from WCE board

After serving as a director on the West Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for nearly 24 years, Max Swisegood has announced his retirement from the position.

Swisegood was elected to represent District 1 in 1998. During his time on the board, he also served on the Scholarship Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, Bylaws and Policy Committee and the Operation Round Up Committee. He was elected to serve as WCE's representative on the NW Electric Board of Directors, a position he held up to his retirement in December.

As a director, his goal was always to "keep the rates as low as possible, but make improvements and changes as needed for efficient services," he told members in his candidate profile prior to his last elected term.

"Serving on the West Central board has been a privilege," Swisegood said. "I have enjoyed being around the people, and seeing the progress we have made over the years has probably been the greatest thing."

Net Metering & Interconnection Act

Missouri's net metering act requires retail electric suppliers to make net metering available to customers who have their own electric generation units that meet certain criteria, one of which is that the unit is powered by renewable energy resources.

Net metering is where the customer gets credit for the electricity he/she generates in lieu of electricity supplied by the electric utility. Net metering provides the best of both worlds for consumers who choose to invest in renewable energy technology: they have the security of grid connection, but are also compensated for the excess power they produce that's fed into the grid.

West Central Electric Cooperative has a net-metering agreement for interconnection of a distributed generation source. Our policy, agreement and application reflect the standards set by the Net-Metering and Easy Connect Act (ECA).

Net metering is available to customers on a first-come, first-served basis until the total rated generating capacity of the net-metering systems equals 5 percent of the utility's single-hour peak load during the previous year.

Simple interconnection procedures that standardize interconnection for all Missourians are necessary to promote the use of renewable energy in Missouri. The ECA makes it easier and more cost-effective for Missourians to connect small renewable energy systems to the grid.

West Central Electric Cooperative supports sound renewable energy. We just ask that our members do their homework before spending thousands of dollars to add solar, wind or any type of renewable energy source to their home.

For more information, contact our Higginsville office at 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.

Longtime former director Charles “Charly” Baile dies at 91

Charles C. “Charly” Baile of Warrensburg, West Central Electric’s longest-serving director, passed away Jan. 21, 2022 at age 91.

Baile was elected to the WCE Board of Directors in 1978 and would go on to serve as a director for the next 33 years before retiring in 2011. He earned the confidence of his fellow directors and was elected vice president and eventually president of the board. Baile was serving as president when he retired in 2011.

During his years on the board, Baile was also elected to serve on the NW board of directors, enjoying a stint as vice president, chairman of the NW Executive Committee and president of the NW Economic Industrial Development Board.

Baile’s extensive knowledge of the cooperative world and his ability to serve was also utilized in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of both the Association of Missouri Electric

Cooperatives and cooperative power supplier Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. He served on the AMEC Service Excellence Committee and treasurer of the AECEI Board of Directors. As treasurer, Baile made several trips to the rating agencies on WallStreet to establish the cooperatives’ credit rating and influence interest rates on borrowed capital.

Baile always said, “My main concern is the power supply and the need for future generation, which goes hand-in-hand with the reliability the members have come to expect at an economic cost they deserve. Of equal importance is maintaining this standard of service and affordability of rates while complying with environmental controls and promoting the efficient use of energy.”

Baile is survived by his wife, Ginger, daughters Tere DeWitt (Gary) and Jobeth Bradbury (Dan), three granddaughters, Susan, Sarah and Beth, and two great-grandchildren.



Charly Baile was the longest-serving director of WCE, totaling 33 years, with 12 as president.

First quarter 2022 Round Up funds are awarded



Alma Police Department \$3,600

Funds will be used to assist in the upgrade of a new radio system for their patrol vehicle.

Holden Boy Scout Troop 727 \$3,200

Funds will be used to help purchase a new equipment trailer.



University of Mo. Extension 4-H \$1,500

Funds will be used to purchase Embryology equipment for teachers in Lafayette County to hatch chicks in their classrooms.

The background image is a photograph of a rural landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is a deep, dark blue with some lighter, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are several bare trees with dark branches. In the middle ground, a white barn with a dark roof is visible, partially obscured by the trees. The overall mood is somber and dramatic, fitting the text about thunder and lightning.

Thunder and

Lightning

don't have to be

frightening

Spring is here, and the Safe Electricity program urges you to be sure that loved ones are aware of the dangers associated with lightning and how to protect themselves.

If thunderstorms and lightning are approaching, the safest location is indoors away from doors and windows with the shades drawn. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. A direct strike is not necessary for lightning voltage to enter your home through phone lines, electrical wires, cables, and plumbing.

Avoid water, electric appliances, and other objects that could conduct electricity, and use only cordless or cell phones to make emergency calls. Other recommendations to avoid lightning shock and damage include:

- Turn off and unplug appliances well before a storm nears—never during. Do not expect a surge protector to save appliances from a lightning strike, unplug it as well.
- Stay away from electrical outlets, appliances, computers, power tools, and TVs. Take off headsets and stop playing video games.
- Turn off your air conditioner to protect the compressor from a power surge and avoid a costly repair job.
- Avoid water and contact with piping—including sinks, baths, and faucets. Do not wash dishes, shower, or bathe during a thunderstorm. Also avoid washers and dryers since they not only connect with the plumbing and electrical systems but also contain an electrical path from the outside through the dryer vent.
- Do not lie on the concrete floor of a garage as it likely contains a wire mesh.
- Basements typically are a safe place to go during thunderstorms, but avoid concrete walls that may contain metal rebar.
- Don't forget your pets. Dog houses are not lightning-safe, and dogs chained to trees can easily fall victim to a strike.

• When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going outside.

Prepare to stay safe after a natural disaster...

From tornadoes to floods, natural disasters can cause destruction and power outages. It is important to be prepared with needed supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge.

Put together an emergency preparedness kit that contains the essentials, including a first aid kit, flashlights, and batteries as well as enough food, water, and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. Keep your kit somewhere handy in case you have to evacuate your home in a hurry.

Get a weather radio to stay up-to-date on changes in the weather. Sign up for alerts to know if storms are coming your way. It is a good idea to utilize different forms of media, including following local news stations on social media. Some stations may even have an app that can be downloaded.

Make sure you are aware of the different weather terminology, such as the difference between a severe thunderstorm watch and a warning. A watch means there is the possibility of storms, and a warning means a storm has been reported and you should take cover.

Create a family plan for emergencies. Identify the responsibilities of each member of the family and places to meet in case you are separated. Ensure everyone knows what they need to do to stay safe.

Also be armed with important electrical safety knowledge should a severe storm or flooding occur:

• Do not step into a flooded basement or room if the water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.

• Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box or touch an electrical appliance if you are wet or in standing water. Call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.

• If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

• If the smell of gas is apparent or if there is a suspected leak in your house, leave immediately and call your gas utility.

• If power lines are on the ground, stay far away from them and warn others to stay away. Contact the local electric utility because the lines could still be live.

• If driving, never get out of the car if there is a downed power line, and never drive over one.

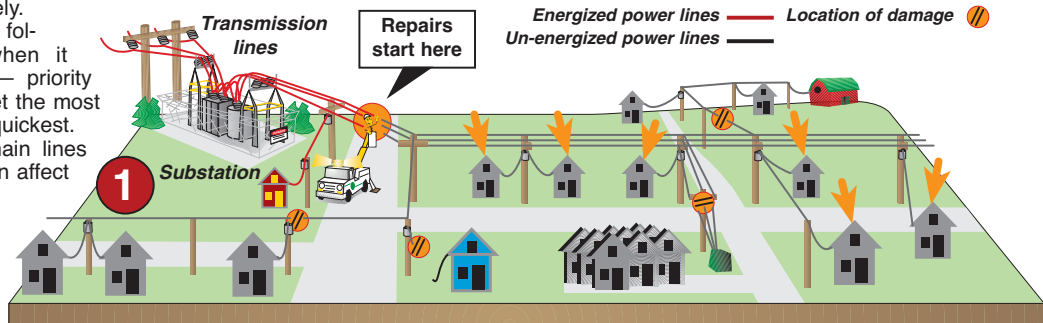
For more safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Getting back on line

We have come to expect that if we lose electric service it will be restored within a few hours at most. But when a devastating event, like a tornado, ice or snow storm causes major damage to a co-op's system, longer outages cannot be helped. Crews work long, hard hours restoring service, but it's a task that needs to be done methodically to be done safely.

Every electric cooperative follows a basic principle when it comes to restoring power — priority goes to the lines that will get the most people back in service the quickest. This usually begins with main lines from the substations that can affect 200-600 members, and continues out to tap lines, which may affect 30-200 members, and then to individual service lines affecting just 1-5 members.

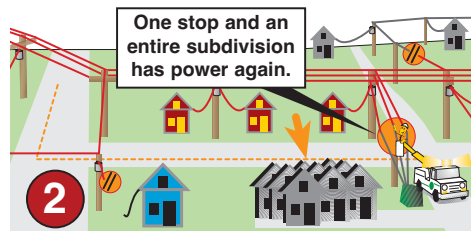
A major storm has just hit this electric cooperative system. Here's a simplified look at how your co-op typically goes about the task of restoring electric service.



Step 1: The substation is energized but a main distribution line is damaged near the substation, leaving most members without power. All repairs start with the main line. A large number

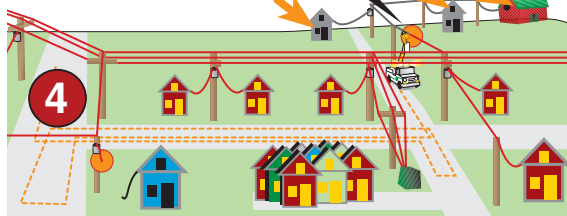
of members (shown with orange arrows) will have power returned once the main line is fixed. All other repairs would be pointless until this line is restored as it feeds all the other lines.

Step 2: With the main line restored (now shown in red), the line crew can isolate other damage and prioritize re-pairs. Though a couple of repairs were closer, fixing the line that serves this subdivision down the road will get a larger number of consumers on more quickly.



Step 3: Moving back down the road to fix this tap line will restore electricity to the three homes marked with arrows.

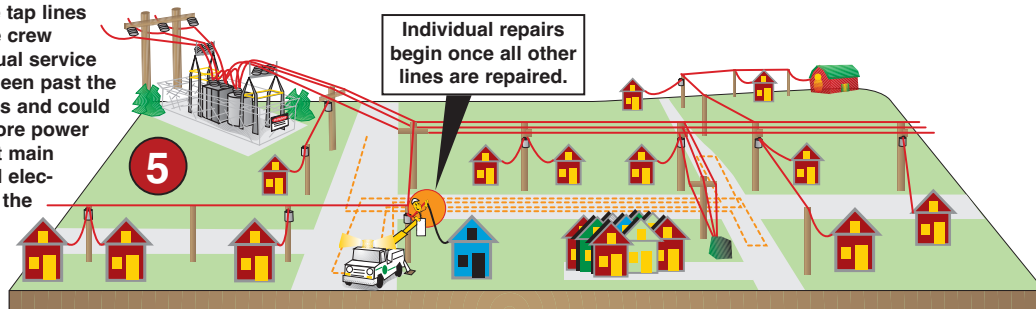
This repair restores power to these homes and farm.



Step 4: A smaller tap line serving a number of homes and the farm on the hill is next on the list for the line crew. The move probably doesn't make the folks in the blue house too happy. They've seen the crew driving by their home and working right across the road. They see lights in homes of all their neighbors but they don't have power!

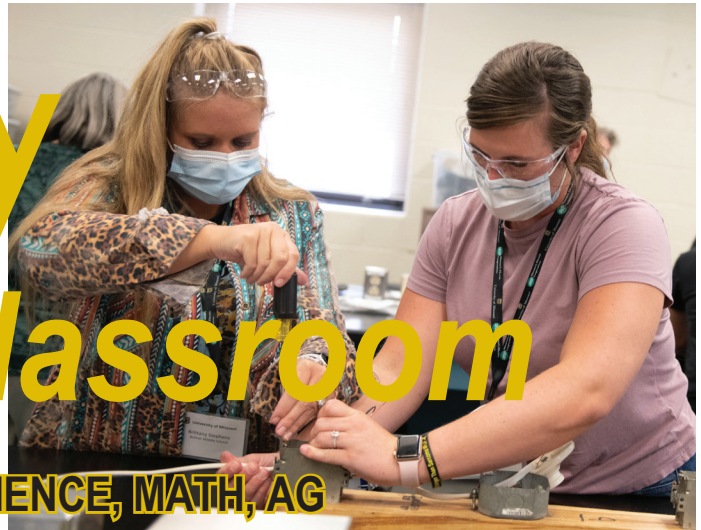
That's because even though electricity is coming to their pole (that happened with the first repair in Step 1), the service line from their pole to their meter is damaged. Individual repairs come after all distribution and tap lines are restored.

Step 5: Only after the tap lines are repaired does the crew start work on individual service lines. The crew has been past the blue home three times and could have stopped to restore power anytime after the first main line was repaired and electricity was flowing to the pole nearby. But it's not fair to other members for a crew to spend hours fixing one outage, when the crew can move down the road and restore power to dozens of homes in the same amount of time.



Electric Consumer graphic by Richard G. Biever

ENERGY *in Today's Classroom*



Are you a MIDDLE or HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE, MATH, AG OR BUILDING TRADE INSTRUCTOR? The University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri's electric cooperatives can help you to bring a knowledge of energy, energy sources and production, generation, efficiency, and more to your classroom through this **FREE PROGRAM!**

For the past several years, WCE and the University of Missouri-Columbia have teamed up to offer an opportunity to area educators to bring a knowledge of energy, energy sources and production, generation, efficiency and more to students in classrooms across the state.

Middle school and high school science, ag science, math or building trades instructors are eligible to apply to attend the 2022 Energy in Today's Classroom program scheduled for **Aug. 2-3, 2022** 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 April 1, 2022.



FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Dec. 21, 2021

The meeting, was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Sheri Smiley, cooperative attorney, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Max Swisegood, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Dale Jarman, Jeremy Ahmann and Robert Simmons. Also present were General Manager Mike Gray, Michael Newland, CFO, Randy Burkybile, Operations manager; Brent Schlotzhauer, Member Services manager; and Smiley.

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 Nov. 30, 2021; expenditures for the month of November 2021; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following November 2021 reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the November 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 and 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 and discussed construction material acquisition, increasing cost of construction materials and supply chain disruptions.

Operations and Safety Report: Burkybile provided the Operations Report. His report included the following: update on crews and COVID-19 issues; the crews are working on off road pole changeouts, and he discussed the impacts of the Dec. 15 wind storm. He also provided a report on equipment, brush and spraying crews, and a right-of-way report. Circuit and spray bids are due at the end of the month. The building generator needs replaced or repaired, and estimates will be coming in. He also reported on new services.

Engineering Report: Gray provided the Safety and Engineering Report. AMEC visited crews in November. He updated on the issues with material and pole shortages. He referred members of the board to the written Safety and Engineering Report for more detailed information.

Member Services Report: Schlotzhauer presented the Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. Scholarship applications are being sent to the schools. An update on solar was given. AECl's rebate program is being reviewed. The member appreciation day was on Dec. 14 in both Higginsville and Oak Grove. The annual meeting was discussed and the board's consensus was to offer paper ballots this year.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported on the Dec. 1 meeting. He provided written reports



to the board. The AMEC PAC was discussed. A donation of \$1500.00 to the PAC was approved.

NW REPORT

Swisegood reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting held Dec. 15. He reviewed the financial statistics and operations report. The load shedding plan in an emergency is being worked on by N.W. and the cooperatives.

WEST CENTRAL BOARD REPLACEMENT

Swisegood announced his retirement from the board. The board discussed how his replacement will be filled pursuant to the bylaws. It was decided to put out notice to the members of the vacant seat and to collect questionnaires from anyone who is interested with a deadline of Jan. 21. The board will review those questionnaires and conduct interviews.

N.W. BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

The vacancy left by Swisegood was discussed. A secret ballot was conducted by the board members to fill his vacancy. Simmons was elected to serve on the N.W. Board.

APPOINT NRTC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Ahmann was named the delegate and Bredehoeft was named the alternate.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented his monthly Manager's Report. He discussed the board self-assessment survey that will be tabulated for next month. The agenda for the strategic planning session was also reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Streit reminded the board of the Foundation members whose terms are up in March.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was called.

MEETING ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • November 2021

	This month	YTD 2021	YTD 2020
Revenue	\$2,307,488	\$27,885,223	\$26,836,009
Power Bill Expense	1,365,961	15,733,696	15,346,879
Operation & Maint. Expense	883,013	6,510,255	6,304,455
Depreciation Expense	206,373	2,227,452	2,133,919
Interest Expense	111,911	1,275,205	1,305,632
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,567,258	25,746,608	25,090,885
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(259,770)	2,138,615	1,745,124
Other Margins	9,866	169,784	172,065
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(249,904)	\$2,308,399	\$1,917,189

