

December 2022



West Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Electric News

Member Appreciation Day is here

Join us Dec. 14 for refreshments
and drawings at our Higginsville
and Oak Grove offices

PAGE 3

Michael Newland
prepares to take co-op
helm with retirement
of GM Mike Gray

PAGE 5

Are you or someone
you know on our list
of unclaimed monies?

PAGE 6

Renewable energy tax
credits are available for
2022

Member Appreciation Day

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14
Higginsville and Oak Grove offices

•Register for FREE \$25 electricity certificates

•Register for 2022 collector's edition
Willie Wiredhand ornaments

*WCE offices will be closed
on the following days:*

**Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26
for the Christmas holiday
and
Monday, Jan. 2, 2023
for the New Year's holiday**

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*; Colby Dowell, *Director*.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Merry Christmas!

from your friends at West Central Electric
Cooperative

Stacy Barnett
Adam Beck
Doug Bird
Janette Blakely
Tim Bowler
Lois Brunkhorst
Randy Burkeybile
Jeff Campbell
Derek Cole
Kade Collins
Brandy Dukes
Dru Felkins
Tiger Fiene
Tim Frerking
Pam Fuenfhausen
Scott Gard
Todd Gast
Mike Gray
Brandon Heck
Heather Hoflander
Rebecca Hoeflicker

Nathan Johnson
Connor Lamphier
Kim Lewis
Dylan Lilleman
Will Long
Billy Mackie
Robert Minnis
Pete Nelson
Michael Newland
Jeff Rhoades
Matt Schellman
Brent Schlotzhauer
Tucker Crowe
Brandon Steffen
Johnny Sullins
Brandon Thaller
Jesse Underwood
Zac Wallpe
Eric Wegener
Wyatt Wilkinson
Laura Years

**We are honored to serve our
members, and wish you a safe
and prosperous new year!**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Mike Gray retires after storied co-op career

The world was a very different place in 1983 when Mike Gray showed up for his first day of work as a West Central Electric groundman on the service truck.

Today, nearly 40 years later, Gray prepares to leave the place he has put this heart and soul into and the co-workers he has called family.

"I would say I am satisfied with what I have accomplished over the years. There are things I could have done better, but overall I feel like I'm leaving the co-op in better shape than it was when I started," he said. "I will miss all of the employees, and having coffee with the operations guys. We have solved many of the world's problems over that morning cup of coffee."

During his career with the cooperative, Gray moved through the ranks of groundman, apprentice lineman, journeyman lineman and then was named line superintendent toward the end of 2000. Barely a year later, the co-op was hit with the worst ice storm in history.

"Thinking back on that week and how we had to process the outages without the technology we have today really makes you appreciate the advances that have been made in that area over the past 20 years," he said.

Like many events over the years, the co-op got through, and Gray's expertise led to him being offered the assistant manager position in October 2009. He was then hired as general manager on Nov. 11, 2010.

"The transition from lineman to superintendent was very easy for me. I had been with the coop 17 years working as a lineman so I was well versed in how the day-to-day operations went," he said. "The step up to manager was a lot different. Coming from the operations part, I had not been exposed to the financial and member relations side. But with the help of some of my fellow employees and a few other co-op managers,



Gray

Board hires CFO Newland as Gray's GM replacement

Following an extensive search, WCE CFO Michael Newland has been chosen by the board to succeed Mike Gray as the new general manager of the cooperative.

Gray announced his retirement earlier this year, and Newland will take the helm in January 2023.

"The co-op has been in great hands and has a great group of dedicated employees," Newland said. "I am excited for this next step and to continue my career at an already strong cooperative. I enjoy working with this co-op family and look forward to what we can do in the future."

Newland began his WCE career in 2018 as the new manager of finance and accounting, a title which was soon changed to chief financial officer.

Newland and his wife, Jamie, live in Higginsville with their children Lucas and Adaya.



Newland

History of WCE General Managers...

Samuel R. Greer*	Aug. 10, 1939
Ralston Young	Aug. 1, 1950
Allan Swanson	Dec. 1965
Maurice Helliker	Nov. 1981 (interim)
Curtis Funston	March 16, 1982
Darrell Rinne	March 1, 1988
John Lansford	Feb. 1996
Glenn "Skip" Alsop	March 25, 2002
Mike Gray	Oct. 2010

*During the Aug. 10, 1939 organizational meeting, Greer was selected by the directors as coordinator of the cooperative. In March 1943, that title was changed to manager.

Continued on page 3



Mike Gray in 1983 during his first days on the job with the service truck.

Lilleman joins WCE as first-year apprentice

Dylan Lilleman has been hired as a first-year apprentice lineman working out of the Higginsville location, announced West Central Electric General Manager Mike Gray.

Lilleman is a WCE and State Technical College EDS Systems scholarship recipient, and graduated in May.

"I look forward to learning more about line work and working my way through my apprenticeship," he said.

Lilleman is a native of Higginsville.



Lilleman

Mike Gray retires after storied co-op career

From page 2

I was able to develop the skills I needed to cover those aspects of the business."

Looking back on his career, Gray said the most arduous aspect was always balancing rates with quality of service.

"Trying to control the expenses required to provide dependable service while keeping rates as low as possible was always the biggest challenge," he said. "But, I feel like our members, for the most part, think West Central is a good utility to be a part of, so I take some pride in that."

As he looks toward retirement and a new daily routine, Gray said he doesn't think he will have any trouble keeping busy and enjoying life.

"I have lots of things to do around the house and lake place, so I will probably get started on some of those projects."

He also has two granddaughters to keep up with.

Gray currently lives in Warrensburg with his wife, Chelle, and close to his daughter Tiffany and granddaughters Charlie and Suri.



50-YEAR LEADER PIN...WCE congratulates member and co-op retiree Anne Patrick for receiving her 50-year 4-H leader pin. (Above) WCE Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer presents Anne with her pin during the annual Johnson County 4-H Recognition Banquet. WCE purchases and presents the leader pins for Lafayette and Johnson county 4-H programs each year. Joining in the presentation is Johnson County 4-H Council President Rebekah Papisifakis (left).

Deck the Halls
with energy efficiency & safety

- Bask in the glow of LED lights
- Go green with your tree instead of artificial and recycle it in a pond when done
- Only use lights that have been tested for safety
- Check out lights, plugs and sockets before putting them on your house or tree

Can you help us locate these people?

The following members have capital credit refund checks due them. Checks mailed to the last address on file for these members have been returned. If you can provide a current address for any of the members listed below, or the name of an heir if the member is deceased, please contact Michael Newland at 1-800-491-3803 or 1-816-565-4942.

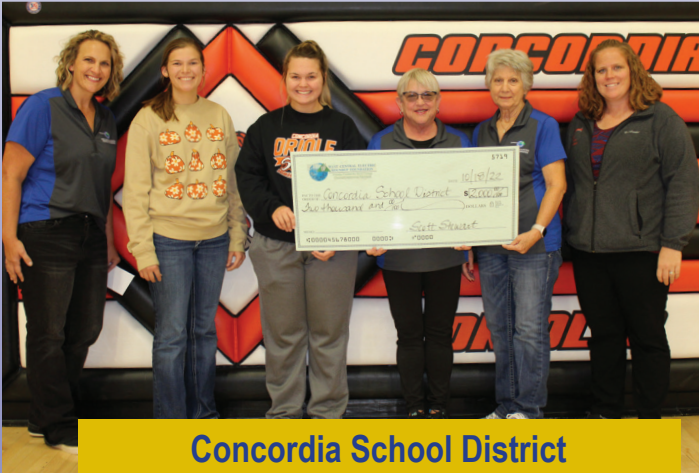
Pierce, Charles G & Loretta A	32.85
Pierce, Dale	5.71
Poisal, Kris	10.25
Poland, Amanda	92.55
Polen, Gordon & Laura	168.84
Poling, Emily A	32.27
Ponderosa Club	28.59
Potter, Robert G & Julie H	67.55
Praetorius, Tricia & Leon	35.09
Pratt, Julie R	31.07
Price, Elmer Dean	18.05
Pugh, Robert A & Christine A	53.50
Pullen, Donna J	72.86
Purdum, Roy Dale & Audrey	50.34
Quillen, Brenda	39.46
Ramsey, Gary & Dawn	67.40
Rangel, Jamie L	12.56
Rasmussen, Russell J	95.21
Ratnasingam, Shan	18.51
Raynes, John	66.80
Reed, Michelle L	25.19
Reed, Scott S	12.94
Reese, George T & Cheri A	34.71
Reich, Carolann	207.82
Reighard, Calvin D	46.21
Reitz, Roland & Pattie	95.51
Remax Associates	8.86
Renfro, Dale & Bonita	170.33
Renfro, Donald	6.49
Renick, Rosemary	2.07
Rewerts, Margaret A	10.11
Rhodes, Jack & Laverne	23.73
Rhodes, R C & Doris	108.66
Riley, Jeff	48.50
Ritzler, Paul	28.28
Roberts, Heather M	7.52
Robinson, Phillip D & Linda	90.57
Rode, Jason & Pickett, Kari	82.59
Roeder, Todd & Lisa A	58.94
Rogers, Charles L & Rogers, Angie	12.97
Rogers, Scott R	16.45
Romereim, Eric A	5.11
Root, Shelly	109.10
Roscoe, Charles M & Theresa M	15.33
Rosebush, Deborah	6.56
Rucker, Aaron	48.44
Rudy, James D II & Rhonda J	64.81
Ruffo, Kelly E	71.27
Ryder, Robert M	117.46
Ryun, Bart & Cacey	23.94
Ryun, Steven	72.64
Salsman, David S & Dorothy	25.70
Salys, Orville W & Mary D	150.71
Sanders, Patricia	26.26
Sanderson, Bill G & Carolyn	113.14
Sartain, Geoffrey A	13.46
Saunders, David A	11.83
Scarborough, R E	36.58
Schafers, Christopher	85.48
Schmitt, Mark B & Amy M	119.07
Schnakenberg, Melinda	51.62
Schneider, Debra R	218.71
Schroeder, Adam K	22.80

Schulte, Verna A	40.50
Schwartz, Gary & Jeanne	9.99
Scott, Kevin E	31.45
Scully, Betty R	4.93
Scurlock, Charles P	117.44
Seaman, Jeff	11.50
Sears, Donnie	111.28
Seeley, Wilda M	21.55
Selder, Susan D	46.84
Semler, Ronald	53.16
Shackelford, Matthew A	7.66
Shames, Jeffrey P	4.97
Sharitz, J C	8.86
Sharp, Stephanie G	100.38
Shaw, Alan K	9.32
Shepard, Dale R & Marsha J	162.47
Shippy, Amy J	62.01
Shippy, Darryl W	117.49
Shivers, Terry W & Sheryl J	3.33
Short, Mende R & Evans, Brent	6.15
Silver Group	12.01
Silvio, Paul	22.58
Simpson, Doris	39.37
Sledd, Joshua & Vicki	40.10
Smalley, William L	46.15
Smith, Darlene	10.73
Smith, Donna	8.98
Smith, Effie	197.74
Smith, Keith & Gloria	9.00
Smith, Kent	14.57
Smith, Lynn D	5.64
Smith, Patsy	87.58
Smith, Steven D & Rebecca	148.19
Smith, Wayne E & Theresa	36.99
Smotherman, Richard & Sherrie	136.24
Snyder, Eric D & Sandra A	19.73
Sole, Reggy R & Lynn	210.29
South, Audra J	64.81
Sparks, Rodney S & Shayla C	9.30
Sparks, Shayla C	99.17
Speaks, Constance E	1.03
Spease, Brian E & Sheryl D	5.83
St Amand, Cameron J	21.80
St Amand, Holly R	21.79
Stachowiak, Alan G & Glenda	80.82
Stacy, Gary & Lisa	16.66
Staples, Richard L	80.98
Staton, Karen L	25.49
Stauch, Sherry	92.92
Steiner, John	6.69
Stevens, Frank	21.54
Stewart, James A & Kimberly A	7.21
Stickley, William M & Lorraine	1.26
Storck, Karen	140.11
Stout, Olive	102.35
Stroud, Edward T	38.55
Stryker, Ed L	20.31
Sturgeon, William & Dana	108.98
Swafford, Ralph & Tamela	80.79
Sweet, Chris	10.15
Swope, Donald E	261.62
Talbert, David & Arlene L	24.89
Tapscott, Jerrod V	53.85
Tarleton, Kathleen	7.58
Taylor, Chadrick J	98.20
Tenholder, Willard H	7.14
Terry, Melanie A	72.81
Thomas, Eric & Carla	68.71
Thompson, Damon L, Sr & Roxann	69.10
Thompson, Lori	16.27
Thompson, Sandra L	19.58
Todd, Jeremy	10.13
Tolmoff, Greg D	5.80

Toole, Christine	7.67
Torres, Angelo	14.24
Toschi, Patty L	3.10
Towne Square Prop Mgmt	31.27
Traver, Mary	56.99
Trebnik, Charles	22.88
Triplett, Josh	9.49
Tullis, Jane E	44.81
Turner, Virginia	6.31
Tweedy, Patricia	95.06
Tyler, Bert & Sharon	176.21
Van Lew, Darrell L & Rhonda	71.21
Vaught, Robert M	19.23
Villines, David W & Jaime L	268.12
Wade, Larry D	21.69
Wagoner, Karen R	37.20
Walker, Floyd & Sandy	153.59
Walters, Sondra G	150.23
Warner, Floyd E & Kathy J	0.03
Watts, Melissa A & Catt, Brian	31.12
Watts, Randy & Trisa L	20.99
Weaver, Leonard T & Angel	20.70
Welch, Karl W & Arlene S	108.50
Wellman, Jerry & Terri	75.88
Werneke, Kristin R	67.87
Werneke, Michael	24.06
Wessels, Leota	29.58
Wessels, Richard E	22.56
West, John W	44.67
Wheeler, Gale L	8.28
Wheeler, Kyle M & Alicia M	49.68
White, Matthew & Benita	89.67
White, Scott I & Stephannie Y	15.77
Whitehead, Dale L & Sandra K	26.32
Wilcox, Loretta	75.68
Wiley, Linda S	24.29
Wilhelm, Lanny D & Cathleen	144.44
Wilkens, David E	11.77
Wilkinson, Carolyn L	6.11
Williams, Bradford E	34.69
Williams, Frank R & Peggy	12.09
Willis, Bryan E	73.69
Wilson, Chastity N	47.42
Wilson, Darren & Cynthia	95.69
Wilson, Harley B & Marie	5.74
Wilson, Joel L & Debra L	10.15
Wiltz, Tom	59.43
Wintermeyer, Sylvia K	40.73
Wiss, David W	19.97
Wissman, Melissa J & Davis, Jeff	66.22
Withrich, Jason & Carlotta Q	81.18
Woirhaye, Brian & Debbie	210.77
Wolfe, Jon & Melissa	89.95
Womack, Samuel T & Terri J	345.86
Woodcock, Heather	44.34
Woodcock, Michael & Heather	57.60
Woods, Christina	35.27
Woodson, Wib & Tammy	128.57
Wright, David C & Teresa J	30.37
Wright, Gary & Angie	4.69
Wright, Jeffrey L	31.73
Wyatt, John & Sheryl K	146.93
Wymer, Kathryn L	15.10
Younce, Forrest & Karen M	14.07
Young, Brian & Jill	15.11
Young, Charles C	75.13

This list is a continuation from the first part published in the November issue of Electric News.

Final round of grants are awarded to 2022 Round Up applicants



Concordia School District
\$2,000

Funds will be used for Meals of Hope BackSnack program, which provides weekly meals for students in need.



Odessa Chamber of Commerce
\$1,840

Funds will be used to refurbish the two welcome signs in the community.



**WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC
ROUNDUP FOUNDATION**

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members



Main Street Holden
\$10,000

Funds will be used construction of a roof, electrical work and lighting for The Life Celebration Theatre, an outdoor theater in the center of downtown Holden where multiple community events are held throughout the year.

Since 2018...

56 projects funded!
over \$200,000 donated

*If your community
organization has a project that
needs funding, contact Kim
Lewis at kim@wcecoop.com,
or visit our website at
www.westcentralelectric.coop
for information on how to
apply for a grant*

Renewable energy tax credits are available

Here's what is out there and how you can claim your share...

Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the renewable energy tax credits for fuel cells, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps now feature a gradual step down in the credit value, the same as those for solar energy systems. See details for qualifying systems at <https://bit.ly/3D5iw3l>

Tax Credit

- 30 percent for systems placed in service by Dec. 31, 2019
- 26 percent for systems placed in service after Dec. 31, 2019, and before Jan. 1, 2023
- 22 percent for systems placed in service after Dec. 31, 2022, and before Jan. 1, 2024

Expires: Dec. 31, 2023

Details: Existing homes and new construction qualify. Both principal residences and second homes qualify. Rentals do not qualify.

Energy-efficiency tax credits for primary homes for 2022

The Non-Business Energy Property Tax Credits outlined below apply retroactively through Dec. 31, 2022. Updates will be applied for 2023 and remain effective through 12/31/2032.

Tax Credit: 10% of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50-\$300.

Expires: Dec. 31, 2022

Details: Must be placed in service in an existing home which is your principal residence by Dec. 31, 2022. New construction and rentals do not apply.

Learn criteria for the following at <https://bit.ly/3TsLkBS>.

Residential Energy Property Costs:

- Air-source heat pumps
- Central air conditioning
- Gas, propane or oil hot water boiler
- Gas, propane or oil furnaces and fans
- Water heaters (non-solar)
- Advanced main air-circulating fan

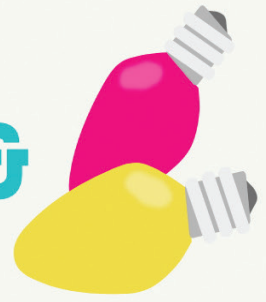
Qualified Energy Efficiency Improvements:

Tax credit does not include installation for following products.

- Insulation
- Roofs (metal and asphalt)

Keep Your Holidays

MERRY & BRIGHT



Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire.



Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.



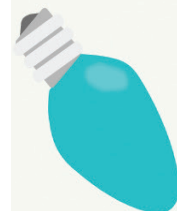
Unplug lights or decorations before changing a bulb or other parts.



Do not use cords or plugs that are damaged, frayed or cracked.



Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab.



In addition, consider LED lights when replacing old light strands. LEDs use 80 to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

Learn more:  **Safe Electricity.org®**

FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM...

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Sept. 29, 2022

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, Sept. 29, 2022, 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. Cooperative Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Densil Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Sandra Streit, Jeremy Ahmann and Colby Dowell. Also present was General Manager Mike Gray and CFO Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, an amended agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Aug. 25, 2022; expenditures for the month of August 2022; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Gray presented the August 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. KRTA ratios were reviewed.

Operations Report

Randy Burkeybile 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, and an update on the wire storage building was given. An update was given on potentially sending linemen to Florida for hurricane work.

Safety and Engineering Report: 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, including crypto miners and a new sub-division.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. The 2023 Youth Tour/CYCLE contest was reported on. He is currently looking at ways to utilize social media for better messaging and promotion of services. Solar systems and rebates given were also reported on as well as



chamber meetings attended.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave a report on the executive committee. Items of interest included updates on the state fair, Rural Missouri magazine, i-Pad voting, expenses for employees, the budget, insurance for executive physicals, a new audit firm, retirements and a manager survey being sent. A potential increase in dues will be voted on at the annual meeting.

NW REPORT

Simmons reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting and the retreat he attended. Presentations were reported on for NERC, FERC and SERC. A new mobile transformer will be purchased. Outages from animals was reported on. The auditor was changed to Kelso, Lynch. The policy on sub-stations was discussed. It is likely that there will be a rate increase from AECL.

APPROVE RESTATEMENT OF NRECA R&S 401(k) PLANS

A resolution regarding the restatement of NRECA R&S 401(k) plan was passed.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. He gave an update regarding a past member where law enforcement was involved. It will be publicly announced that Michael Newland, CFO, has been hired as the new General Manager effective Jan. 1, 2023.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Clark Bredehoeft gave a USDA update..

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 11:45 a.m. and adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • August 2022

	This month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Revenue	\$2,882,305	\$22,506,213	\$20,697,677
Power Bill Expense	1,603,393	12,743,079	11,733,831
Operation & Maint. Expense	1,142,182	5,268,060	4,467,155
Depreciation Expense	214,470	1,688,827	1,609,885
Interest Expense	111,831	903,835	923,028
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	3,071,876	20,603,801	18,733,899
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(189,571)	1,902,412	1,963,778
Other Margins	15,140	126,347	70,571
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(174,431)	\$2,028,759	\$2,034,349

