

January 2023



West Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Electric News



Happy  
New  
Year!

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WCE offers several convenient payment options to avoid accruing late fees

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We are looking for our 2023 Youth Tour and CYCLE delegates! It could be YOU!

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Be prepared for winter storms when you are at home or on the road

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Michael Newland, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



**West Central Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

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*West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## Net Metering & Interconnection Act

West Central Electric Cooperative has a net metering agreement for interconnection of a distributed generation source.

Our policy, agreement and application now reflect the new standards set by the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act as of January 1, 2008.

For more information, contact our Higginsville office at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

## \*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*

### When mailing payments:

Remember that mailed payments can get delayed causing late fees on your account. WCE offers several convenient payment options to make sure your payment arrives on time:

- Recurring Credit Card
- Autodraft from Checking or Savings
- Secure Pay-by-Phone line 1-855-874-5349
- Autodraft from Checking or Savings
- SmartHub app or on our website at:  
[www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop)
- Convenient 24-hour drop boxes at all offices and payment locations
- We also accept payments at Community National Bank & Trust, 713 PCA Rd. in Warrensburg and 123 W. 2nd St. in Holden

### When making payments by phone:

When making a payment using the automatic, secure payment number, please double-check electric account numbers and bank account numbers to make sure they are correct. One missed number will result in payments being posted to the wrong electric account.

**Pay-by-Phone:  
1-855-874-5349**

## 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:

Michael Newland

### Board of Directors:

Densil Allen, Jr. *President*; Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice-Pres.*; Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*; Robert Simmons, *Secretary*; Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Sect.*; Richard Strobel, *Director*; Sandra Streit, *Director*; Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*; Colby Dowell, *Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**LEARNING THE ROPES...** West Central Electric Operations Manager Randy Burkeybile demonstrates the cooperative's mapping system for Cole Hostetter, a senior at Santa Fe High School. Cole, who is interested in a career as a lineman and has applied to the Electrical Distributions Systems program at State Technical College, job-shadowed at the cooperative recently.

# Doug Bird retires after 29-year career at WCE

WCE Groundman/Truck Driver Doug Bird retired from the cooperative in December after 29 years of service as a groundman/truck driver.

Bird joined the WCE family on October 4, 1993 and spent his time at the cooperative performing the support tasks for the linemen and operating equipment such as the digger trucks.

"The trucks and equipment have gotten bigger and better," Bird noted, recalling improvements he has seen throughout the years. "They now have remotes for the digger trucks which is much more efficient. Impact tools to frame and unframe poles have been a life-saver."

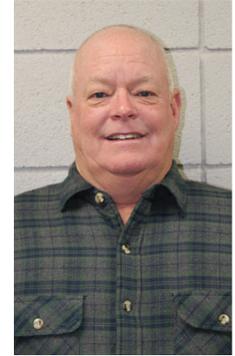
In 29 years, a lot of memories can be tallied, but Bird said none could compare to the infamous ice storm of 2002.

"We worked two weeks of 16-to-17-hour days to get the power restored, so, of course, I missed my son's basketball games," he said. "We used shotguns to help clear the trees. That was a new experience."

Bird also recalled working mutual aid assistance during the big Bootheel Ice Storm in 2010.

Spending so much time with fellow employees in situations where each relies on the other for the safety of life and limb forges a bond that is not easily forgotten.

"I will miss the camaraderie with the men and the ladies, and I will miss the breakroom talk," Bird said. "(Also) building services for our members and restoring power to the people who were very appreciative. WCE has been a great place to make a career."



**Bird**

## To report an outage...

### Online:

Members may report power outages online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop). Click on the tab at the top titled "Report an Outage" and enter your account number or phone number; or on the SmartHub app.

### By phone:

You may also call to report outages by phone. Call 1-800-491-3803 -- 24 hrs. a day, or Higginsville at 816-565-4942.

*\*During heavy outages, we will be busy, so please keep trying if you get a busy signal.*

### Before calling, have you:

- 1) Checked your fuses or multibreakers?
- 2) Checked with your neighbors to see if they are out of electricity?

### When calling, have this information ready:

A) Your name, or the name your service is under;

B) Your account number (look on your latest bill to find it.) or your map location number. (This is the number the co-op uses to locate where you live. It was given to you when you signed up for membership.) Please keep both numbers by your phone for quicker service.

### Tracking Outages

Outage information may be tracked on our website, and periodic updates will be posted on our facebook page. PLEASE DO NOT REPORT OUTAGES ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE as they have a good chance of getting missed. If you have internet service, go to the website to report instead.



**Groundman/Truck driver Doug Bird works to help set a pole.**

# West Central Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour & CYCLE 2023!

What do the schools in West Central Electric Cooperative's service area have in common? They have sent some of the best and brightest to both our nation's and state's capitals for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience. If you are a high school junior this year, YOU could be a part of that, too!

## What is Youth Tour?

The annual contest for high school juniors is sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, which sends delegates on a six-day trip to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history and government while experiencing our nation's capital firsthand. Electric Cooperatives throughout the country sponsor delegates on the trip which includes students from Alaska to Wyoming and in between. Cooperatives from the state of Missouri will send more than 100 delegates. This year, WCE will send **AT LEAST THREE DELEGATES**, and, depending on the number of entries received, as many as five delegates to Washington, D.C.

## When is it?

This year's Youth Tour for Missouri will be **Monday, June 12 - Sunday, June 18, 2023**. Missouri delegates will meet in Jefferson City on Monday, June 12 for a reception and orientation before traveling by plane to Washington, D.C. June 13. Delegates and their families will also have the opportunity to participate in Family Capital Day sponsored by West Central Electric, and spend the day in Jefferson City on their own mini-Youth Tour.



2022 WCE Youth Tour delegates Jacob Bacus, Caton Brown and Shayla Joseph visit the White House along with a few new friends.

## What will we do?

While in Washington, D.C., delegates will have the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives. In the past, we have visited historic memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima and Vietnam memorials. We have had favorite Washington, D.C. landmarks on the agenda, including Mt. Vernon, the Smithsonian museums,

Ford's Theatre, the Washington Monument and

## What is CYCLE?

Arlington National Cemetery. Delegates have enjoyed a moonlight cruise on the Potomac River and a MLB game or or play at the Kennedy Center. The Rural Electric Youth Tour provides a chance for high school juniors to learn about government, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives, as well as rural electrification and the impact it has had on our nation's development.

CYCLE is the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience which is currently scheduled for July 19-21 in Jefferson City. WCE will send **FIVE DELEGATES** to this conference sponsored by the Association of Missouri

*For more information on both of these programs, contact your high school English teacher, FFA advisor, or Heather Hoflander at West Central Electric Cooperative in Higginsville at 1-800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942, or heather@wcecoop.com.*

Electric Cooperatives. They will join more than 100 other delegates from across the state. Students will hear amazing speakers, participate in team-building and leadership activities, and get a chance to author, present and debate their own bill on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives. A visit to the Winston Churchill Memorial is also on the schedule.



During the 2022 CYCLE, Aubriana Beeler, Brooklynn Correa, Kyla Brandes and Jenna Shanks toured the historic Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City.

## Contest Details:

The contest is open to high school juniors who attend a school in the West Central Electric service area, or whose parents or legal guardians are current members of WCE

## How do I enter?

Submit a 600-word, typed essay on the following topic:

***“Electric cooperatives -- demonstrating responsibility to their members”***

Students will discuss some of the many ways (programs, power supply, environment, etc.) cooperatives show responsibility to their members

## For more information:

Visit [westcentralelectric.coop](http://westcentralelectric.coop) and click on “Youth Programs” then “Youth Tour” to download the information packet.

**DEADLINE: Feb. 10, 2023.**

# Be prepared for winter storms

## Take measures before storms hit to avoid the unexpected

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs. This can disrupt power for days on end. With this, comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to consumers is the highest priority, and electric utility crews work around the clock to restore service. Even so, it can take days to repair the devastating damage of a winter storm. If you are in the midst of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines:

Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility company. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be live and deadly.

Safe Electricity stresses the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause. You need the right emergency items and knowledge to stay warm and safe in a winter storm. Safe Electricity offers the following tips to prepare your home:

Before winter sets in, update your insulation and caulk and install weather-strips.

Call your utility company or professional tree trimmers to cut branches away from your home and power lines.

Safe Electricity emphasizes that everyone, particularly families with special needs, must be prepared in case of a winter emergency and long-term power outages. Prepare an emergency kit with the following items:

- Battery-powered radio and flashlights with fresh batteries
- Extra blankets

- Water for drinking and washing
- Non-perishable food and a can opener.
- First aid kit and prescription medicines.

When a storm hits, your preparation should include knowledge. The following tips from Safe Electricity can help you stay safe and warm.

- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.

- Do not use charcoal grills or gas ovens to heat your home; this could lead

to carbon monoxide poisoning. Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.

- Close off unneeded rooms

- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multi-purpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in\

- Cover windows at night

- Maintain a regular diet. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own energy.

- Drink plenty of fluids-stay hydrated.

- Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire. Perspiring causes the body to lose fluids which could potentially lead to dehydration.

- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or persons over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with

friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm enough to be safe.



*If you are in the midst of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines: Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your utility company. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking or moving to be live and deadly.*

Preparing for Storm Season?

# DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



Snowbrush  
Shovel  
Windshield washer fluid  
Cat litter for traction



Warm clothing  
Blankets  
Drinking water  
Nonperishable foods



Properly inflated spare tire  
Wheel wrench & tripod jack  
Jumper cables  
Fire extinguisher



Reflective triangles  
Reflective vest  
Brightly colored cloth  
(to tie on side mirror)



First-aid kit  
Flashlight and batteries  
Compass  
Car charger for cell phone

Safe  
Electricity.org®

Source: NSC

Winter efficiency strategy...

## Resolve to save energy and money this year

You spend 40 percent or more of your utility bill on heating and cooling, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Generally, more than half of that percentage is for heating. You can slash your heating bill by changing how you keep the cold out. Here's how:

**Dress for winter inside** – If you're wearing sleeveless tops and shorts and going barefoot inside your house in winter, you've got the thermostat set too high. Lower it to 68 degrees, and you'll be comfortable if you dress for winter. That means layering on long-sleeved shirts, sweats, sweaters and socks when inside. For every degree adjusted, you could save around 1 to 3 percent on heating costs, depending on your heating source. You could save as much as 10 percent of your utility bill by turning back the thermostat 10 to 15 degrees for at least 8 hours. Setting it back at night makes the most sense.

**Stop the drafts and leaks** – Save up to 15 percent of your heating dollars by caulking, sealing and weatherstripping wherever outside meets inside.

**Take care of your furnace** – Replace or clean the furnace filter each month you heat; dirty filters can greatly affect the heating ability of the furnace and waste valuable fuel. Vacuum heating registers and as far into the ducts as you can reach. If you have baseboard or electric wall heaters, brush and remove dust and dirt from the cooling fins and fan. Check and clean electronic air cleaners every three weeks or so.

**Insulate** – Insulation is the low-hanging fruit of energy efficiency. Your home will be more comfortable winter and summer and your utility bill lower if you insulate to recommended (or above) levels. ENERGY STAR and DOE recommend:

- Zone 5, Iowa and upper Missouri – R-49 to 60 for uninsulated attic, R-38 to 49 for existing insulated attic and R-25 to 30 for floor
- Zone 4, rest of Missouri – R-38 to 60 uninsulated attic, R-38 existing insulated attic and R-25 to 30 floor

**Adjust your water heater temperature** – It's easy to forget your water heater is running 24/7 to keep water hot for the small amount of time you need it. Lowering the set temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees can add up to significant savings when you multiply 24/7 by 52 weeks a year. Every 10-degree reduction in water temperature can save 3 to 5 percent in energy costs.

**Reverse the switch on your ceiling fans** – Push down the warm air that naturally rises; especially in rooms with high ceilings.

**Open heating vents** – Make sure they are open and unblocked by furniture or other items to ensure air is evenly distributed.

**Check your ducts** – Look for sections that have become separated. Seal leaks with mastic, butyl tape, foil tape or other heat-approved tapes, but not duct tape.

**Turn off ventilating fans within 20 minutes** – After 20 minutes, these fans in bathrooms and kitchens suck out warm air and can empty a warm house in about an hour.

**Throw down some rugs** – If you have tile or wood floors, putting down area rugs will make you feel more comfortable.

For additional tips, download A Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling at [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/HeatingCoolingGuide%20FINAL\\_9-4-09.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/publications/pubdocs/HeatingCoolingGuide%20FINAL_9-4-09.pdf)

# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Oct. 27, 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, Oct. 27, 2022, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Clark Bredehoeft. 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 were General Manager Mike Gray, CFO Michael Newland, and attorney Sheri Smiley.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved as presented.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Sept. 29, 2022; expenditures for the month of September 2022; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following September reports were approved:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Newland presented the September 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. He also gave a new service report.

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. A RESAP audit was completed. Issues with transformer pad mounts and pole shortages were discussed.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzauer provided a written Member Services Report. He reported on Operation Round Up. The 2023 Youth Tour contest was reported on. He reported on classrooms that the co-op has done presentations to. The Johnson County 4-H meeting was attended. Solar systems and rebates given were also reported on as well



as chamber meetings attended.

## AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft and Strobel gave a report on the annual meeting they attended. Awards that were given out were reported on. Speakers presentations were reported on. A written report was also provided

## ROUND UP FOUNDATION REPORT

Streit provided a report. Donations that were made were reported on.

## NRECA REGION 8-10 MEETING REPORT

Simmons reported on the meeting he attended. He reported on resolutions that were passed and on the speakers. Consortiums will be set up for infrastructure bill money.

## N.W. ELECTRIC REPORT

Simmons reported on the N.W. Electric board meeting. He discussed a potential rate increase, on deferred revenues and that the budget was passed.

## SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS 3.2

Gray presented a change to section 3.2 of the Service Rules and Regulations. A motion passed to make the recommended changes.

## LEGAL REPORT

Smiley presented a report on legal matters.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Gray presented the monthly Manager's Report. Member comments were discussed. A Lafayette County representative will come at 9:45 a.m. before the next board meeting to meet with the board. An issue with a member who damaged line and a pole was discussed. The February board retreat was discussed. Staff will come back next month with available February dates.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman called for new business. An update on recreational marijuana was given.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORT • *Statement of Operations* • September 2022

	This month	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,652,511</b>	<b>\$25,158,725</b>	<b>\$23,404,976</b>
Power Bill Expense	1,448,576	14,191,654	13,103,316
Operation & Maint. Expense	452,550	5,720,612	5,287,460
Depreciation Expense	216,333	1,905,159	1,815,118
Interest Expense	123,769	1,027,604	1,048,887
<b>Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)</b>	<b>2,241,228</b>	<b>22,845,029</b>	<b>21,254,781</b>
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	411,283	2,313,696	2,150,195
Other Margins	59,908	186,254	152,705
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$471,191</b>	<b>\$2,499,950</b>	<b>\$2,302,900</b>

