

July 2023



West Central Electric Cooperative
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Electric News

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WCE will credit \$1.5 million in capital credit refunds to member accounts in July.

PAGES 4-5

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

PAGE 7

Mail-in ballot procedures outlined for those unable to attend 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 credit refunds in July, according to WCE Accounting Manager Rebecca Hoeflicker.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in July or August (depending on your billing cycle) 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," Hoeflicker 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," she 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 Hoeflicker at 1-800-491-3803.

Capital Credits refunded in 2023

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

Credits being distributed this year:

100% of remaining allocations for 2003 and 100% of 2004

If you were were a member of the cooperative during these years, you should receive a refund.

Please direct capital credits questions to Rebecca Hoeflicker in the Higginsville office: 1-800-491-3803.

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:

Michael Newland

Board of Directors:

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2023 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting of members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, August 4, 2023 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 TWO directors from District 3 and ONE director from District 5 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 3

Robert Simmons, Warrensburg, Mo.
Richard Strobel, Concordia, Mo.

District 5

Densil Allen Jr., Warrensburg, Mo.
Ralph Damon, Oak Grove, Mo.

3. Such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.



Robert Simmons, Secretary
July 10, 2023



ON THE COVER: WCE crews work to replace a broken pole as daylight fades into dusk.

WCE 84th Annual Meeting Aug. 4, 2023
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, 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 the Multipurpose Building.

◆Youth Tour presentation

◆Introduction of West Central Electric and John & Kathryn English scholars

◆Introduction of RoundUp Foundation board members and RoundUp report

7:00 p.m.

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

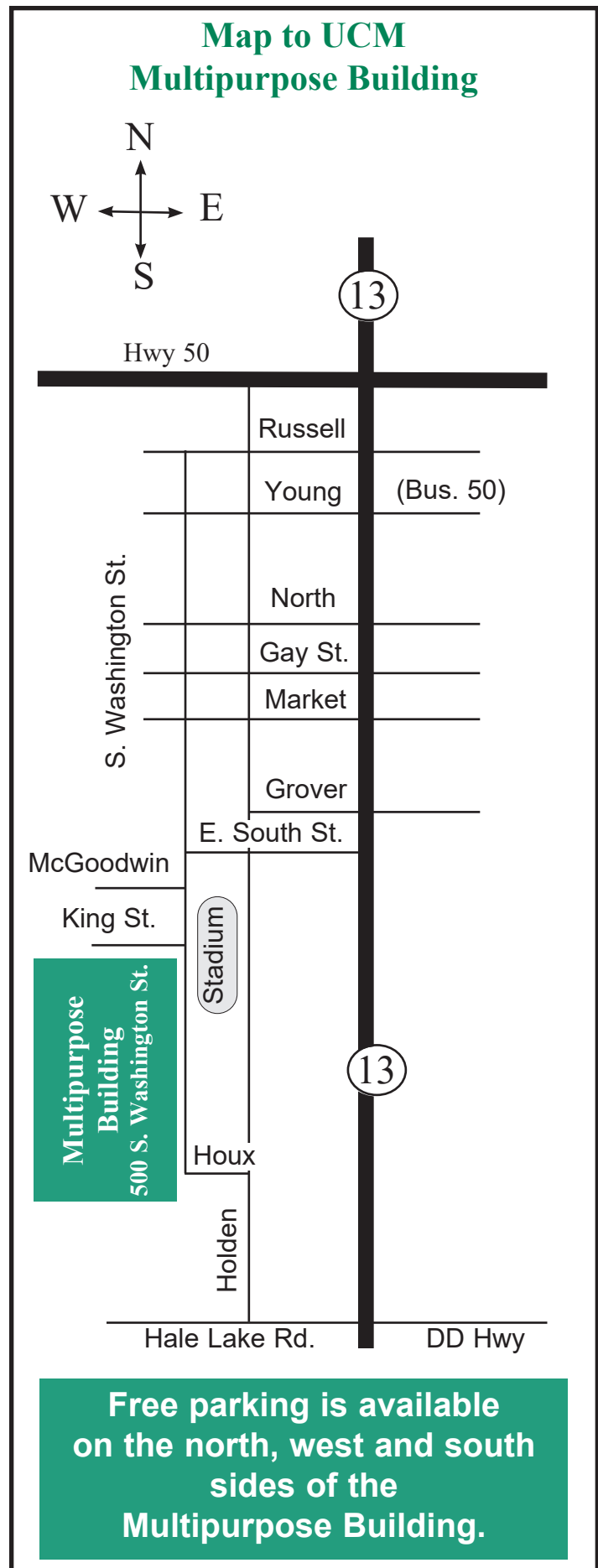
◆Presentation by Jim McCarty: "West Central Electric -- In the Beginning"

PRIZE DRAWINGS:

- ◆40" Vizio D-Series full HD SmartTV donated by NW Electric
- ◆\$25, \$50, \$100 energy certificates
- ◆\$500 FREE electricity! (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' Area with giveaways and prize drawings
- ◆Electrical safety demonstrations
- ◆Health screenings from Johnson County Community Health Services
- ◆Meet the WCE linemen
- ◆Glaucoma & macular degeneration screenings by Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
- ◆Operation RoundUp booth
- ◆Take Control and Save energy-efficiency booth & more!



West Central Electric Cooperative • 2023 Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT

3

Candidate

Robert Simmons
Warrensburg, Mo.



Occupation: Retired banker

Family: Wife, Georgia; daughters Rachel and Brooke, and granddaughters Lorelei, Brynn and Blair

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Mount Tabor United Methodist Church, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency Board, Mid-Missouri Tractor Club, Vice President of Veterans Assistance League at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I feel West Central Electric offers affordable electricity and excellent service. I feel the employees do an excellent job taking care of the members and keeping the lights on. It is a privilege to serve on the board of directors.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? Trying to keep the cost of electric service to the members as inexpensive as possible, and trying to develop more efficient ways for the cooperative to operate.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? The biggest issue I feel facing cooperatives today is the regulations that are being imposed by the federal government that affect the cost of power to the consumer. I feel it is important to work together with other cooperatives to deal with this issue, as well as developing alternative power solutions.

Additional comments: I have enjoyed serving on the board of directors these past years, and would like to continue to do so.

***Members will vote for TWO (2) candidates from District 3 and ONE (1) candidate from District 5**

DISTRICT

3

Candidate

Richard Strobel
Concordia, Mo.



Occupation: Farmer

Family: Wife: Linda; Children: Amanda, Christina & David; Grandsons: Tyler, 19; Tanner, 11 & Ethan, 8; Granddaughters: Olivia, 10; Claire, 6 and Isabel, 5 months

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Transportation Advisory Council which works with MoDot for future planning; Member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Member of American Legion Post 258; Member and past commander of VFW Post 5649 and Member of the Veterans Assistance League. One of my passions is my duty as commander of the Concordia Veterans Honor Guard through which we show honor to deceased veterans at their funerals and on national holidays. I have been the commander for the past 22 years, and one of the most gratifying experiences is to fold and present the flag to the grateful families, and fire a 21-gun salute.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I have very much enjoyed the last 12 years as a board member of WCE. Working for the membership to improve their service has given me a great deal of pride. I look forward to continuing my work with the cooperative.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I believe the board should continue to work together for the good of the entire membership. I intend to have as much input into decision-making as possible. I further believe the health and safety of our linemen should be our greatest concern. I have said before, our employees are our greatest asset. Our outside workers only number 18, yet after a storm many of you have witnessed their amazing work ethic.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? The cost of doing business including equipment, maintenance, labor and insurance are always on the increase. Our number-one concern is keeping rates low for our members. While technology has allowed household appliances to become more energy efficient, this has allowed kilowatt usage to decrease. This, however, has resulted in margins narrowing creating less income for the co-op. We must continue to be watchful and curb expenses where possible.

Additional comments: I have always believed most members are happy if they turn on their light switch and lights come on and stay on. Electricity is safe, affordable with rates near 11 cents per kilowatt, and reliable with brush removed from most all power lines.

West Central Electric Cooperative • 2023 Board of Directors Candidates

DISTRICT

5

Candidate

Densil Allen Jr.
Warrensburg, Mo.



Incumbent

Occupation: Currently own a commercial cow/calf operation & working with Davis & Bell Auction Service

Family: Wife, Cyndi; Son Shawn Allen and wife Bess, grandchildren Harper and Boone Allen; daughter Angie Allen Ruddock, grandchildren Reagan (Bryce) O' Donnell and Kate Ruddock; daughter Emma Allen

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Attend Warrensburg Northside Christian Church; member of Missouri Cattlemen Association; board member of Central Bank, Warrensburg; member of American Quarter Horse Association, member of Warrensburg Veterans Home Veterans Assistance League.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I have enjoyed serving the members of West Central Electric for the past 12 years. We have a strong board that is dedicated to the members, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? To use the knowledge gained from conferences to provide our members of West Central Electric with a reliable and affordable source of electric power. As the demand for electricity for our members continues to increase, we educate ourselves so that we are able to meet those demands. I also think it is important to keep up with the renewable energy resources and find ways to integrate some of this into our present system.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? One of the biggest issues continues to be the uncertainty of government regulations. As a board, we must strive to keep pace with new developments that will help us meet our members current and future energy needs. Part of meeting these needs will be integrating the use of alternative energy sources to supplement our power supply. It is important to make sure our government officials are aware of how regulation changes can have an impact on our power supply and members. It is also important we keep our members informed on any issues that could impact their cost of electricity.

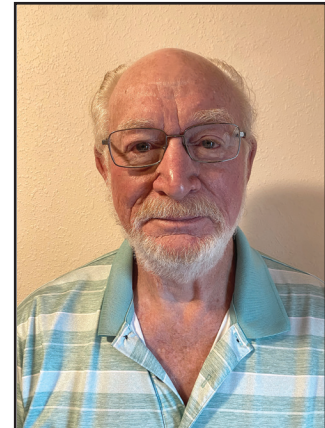
Additional comments: I look forward to having the opportunity to continue serving the West Central Electric Cooperative members and their families.

DISTRICT

5

Candidate

Ralph Damon
Oak Grove, Mo.



Occupation: Retired educator from the Kansas City, MO School District

Family: (spouse, children and grandchildren): I am married for the second time (my wife Marci and I both lost our first spouses in 2009) and between us we have four children and six grandchildren. Marci is a retired Registered Nurse having just recently retired as the school nurse in the Hardin, MO School District.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I am a member of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I currently serve as the vice-president of the Eastern Jackson County Pachyderm Club as well as the secretary of the Missouri State Federation of Pachyderms and as the president of our local HOA where I live.

Why did you agree to run for a position on the board of directors? What do you feel qualifies you to serve as a director of the cooperative? I am very interested in the future of utility availability to the family consumers and businesses for the uncertain days ahead. I believe that my background in education, industry, and as a former small business owner, would assist me in being able to see the larger picture of how we can maintain the current level of productivity as well as assist in the long-term goals of our cooperative

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

1. To become acquainted with the goals and dreams of our local cooperative and how they reflect the ideals of the citizens that are part of West Central Electric. Having knowledge is the primary step to being able to provide leadership and support in any endeavor.
2. To be a visible supporter of all current and future policies and procedures that ensure reliable and affordable electric, as well as being willing to "look outside the box" for answers to other questions or concerns that will become evident in the days and years ahead.
3. We are fortunate to have mid-sized businesses, mom and pop businesses, farms, multi-housing communities and developments, and small land owners, all living and existing almost side by side. Each of these have unique needs that need to be understood and supported. I would hope to become intimately acquainted with each of these and understand how West Central Electric can meet their needs.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Anyone who has kept up with the "news of the day" understands how critical it is to secure adequate and reliable power to a growing world. The increase in population, expansion of new technology and the sub-structure it requires, as well as the current limited amount of fossil fuel availability only increases the need to design and develop new ways to provide electric as well as more efficient ways to utilize current wind, solar and nuclear energies. As most who serve now serve on electric cooperatives, I would not be an expert in any of these needs or solutions. But I will do whatever I can to work with those who are the experts, and with those who have the same desire to ensure for our future needs.

Additional comments: My wife and I moved into the Oak Grove area in 2012, building a home on 11 acres about four miles north of town. In 2018 we established a solar array and currently are benefiting from that work. Although the current financial benefit is very good, the initial outlay was something that many people could find difficult. In this time of increased inflation, and the shrinking of spendable dollars for every family, I would hope to be a director willing to find ways for more affordable electric as well as for sustained access to our electrical needs.

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members, August 5, 2022
To be approved at Aug. 4, 2023 Annual Meeting of Members

The 83rd 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 5, 2022, 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 p.m. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept.

Youth Tour representative Jacob Bacus led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Linda Strobel sang the National Anthem. A prayer of invocation was offered by Director Richard Strobel.

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 148 members and 538 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 2019 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 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as printed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 the 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 Don Fore and Colby Dowell 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 districts 2 and 4, it was appropriate to elect Rhodes and Streit by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Rhodes from District 2 and Streit from District 4. Smiley also discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws in Article VII (7) of Section 2. She asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of or against the proposed bylaw amendment. She asked the inspectors to collect the ballots.

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.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ELECTION RESULTS

Smiley returned and stated that the bylaw change had passed by a vote of 303 "yes" and 82 "no." She also announced that Colby Dowell was elected from District 1 with a majority vote of 206 to 158.

ADJOURNMENT

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes.

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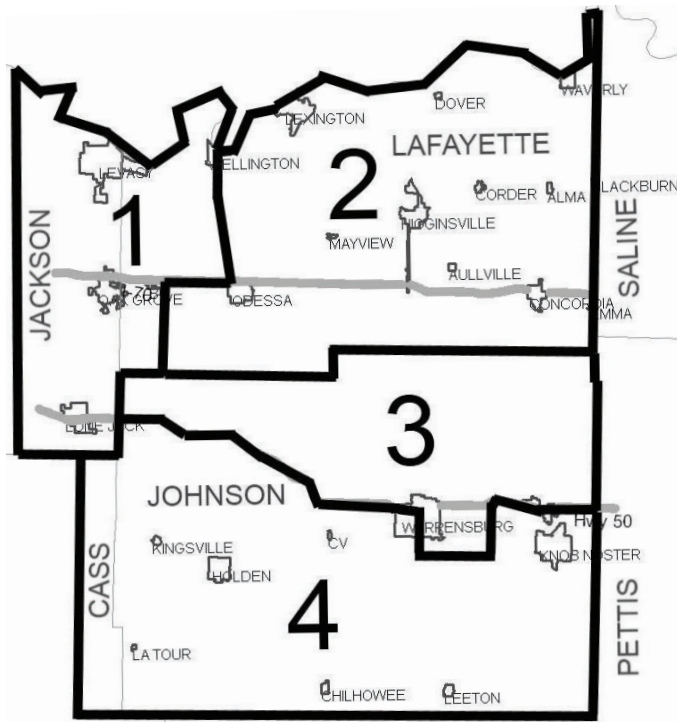
2023 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Members of the 2023 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met May 11, 2023 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Nominees were: District 3-- incumbents Robert Simmons and Richrd Strobel; and District 5 -- incumbent Densil Allen Jr. and challenger Ralph Damon. Members will vote on two directors from District 3 and one director from District 5. Members of the Nominating Committee are: District 1, Adam Heater and Charles Bartram; District 2, Lance Tieman and Paul Nolte; District 3, Virginia Haller and Jeremy Sanders; District 4, Tonya Adams and William Grauberger and District 5, Stephanie Othic.



Nominating Committee (l-r): Paul Nolte, Tonya Adams, Lance Tieman, Virginia Haller, Jeremy Sanders, Stephanie Othic, William Grauberger, Charles Bartram and Adam Heater

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 84th annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, 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 bill.
- All requested ballots will be mailed to members after July 5, 2023.
- 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. 3, 2023 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 27, 2023

The meeting, was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Robert Simmons, secretary of the cooperative, caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen, Simmons, Clark Bredehoeft, Dale Jarman, Richard Strobel, Stan Rhodes, Sandra Streit, Jeremy Ahmann and Colby Dowell. Also present were General Manager Michael Newland and Sheri Smiley, attorney for the cooperative.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved as amended.

BOARD FIDUCIARY TRAINING

Smiley provided fiduciary training to the board of directors, including training on conflicts, the duty of care and the duty of loyalty. A new policy regarding conflicts will be brought back next month for consideration.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2023; expenditures for the month of March 2023; new membership applications and membership terminations and Treasurer's Report.

APPROVAL/ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

The following March reports were approved/accepted:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the March 2023 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios.

Operations Report: Scott Gard provided a report to supplement his written Operations Report. Pole changes and new services were reported on. He reported on the March 31 storm. He met with Altec and gave a report on when the new truck will be delivered. He gave updates on the storage building, the mechanic and fleet. A report was given on brush crews and right-of-way.

Safety and Engineering Report: Pete Nelson provided a report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. Safety meetings were reported on. Crew inspections were held and no safety violations were observed. An engineering staking department report was given. Fiber make ready work was also reported on. Issues with materials were reported on. An issue with a landowner who does not want to give an easement was discussed.

Member Services Report: Brent Schlotzhauer provided a report to supplement his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment. New connects and the District 1 member service meeting he attended on ground source heat pumps was discussed. The Youth Tour, English Scholarship and WCE Scholarship winners were announced. He discussed issues with a member.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Sandra Streit reported on the meeting held April 10.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

The Annual Meeting was discussed. Options for meals were given and selected. The Nominating Committee meeting is scheduled for May 11. The options for a video or slide show was discussed and staff will consider entertainment for the evening.

AMEC BOARD ALTERNATE

Newland was appointed as the AMEC Board alternate.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft provided a written report on the AMEC meetings he attended April 5. He also reported on staffing.



N.W. ELECTRIC REPORT

Simmons gave a report on the meeting he and Newland attended. An AEI written report was provided. He reported on margins, deferred revenue, outages and the next year's annual meeting. He reported on the election of officers. The board members who attended the annual meeting gave a report.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE REPORT

Simmons gave an update on the meeting he attended. He reported on legislators met with.

DISCUSS CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS

Newland led the discussion on capital credit retirements. Management's recommendations were to retire 100% of West Central Electric, NW and CFC capital credits for 2003 for a total of \$204,821.74 and 100% of 2004 of West Central Electric, NW and CFC capital credits for a total of \$1,288,973.58 for a grand total of \$1,493,795.42. A motion was made by Sandra Streit, seconded by Stan Rhodes, discussed and passed to approve the management's recommendations for 2003 and 2004 retirement of capital credits.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MARIJUANA POLICY

This policy will be reviewed by the Policy Committee.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CANDIDATE POLICY

This policy will be reviewed by the Policy Committee after September.

REVIEW AND APPROVE UPDATES TO POLICY 2.6

Revisions to Policy 2.6 were discussed. Smiley brought suggested changes. A motion was made to accept the changes to Section A4 but not B3.

CFC AND FEDERATED ANNUAL MEETING

Jarman was appointed as the delegate and Simmons as the alternate.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave a legal report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. He reported on the tour being planned for Thomas Hill. Board members will let Kim Lewis know of dates and times they are free in July. The audit is complete and the auditor will present the report in June. The June board meeting was moved to June 29. The Policy Committee will meet in May. The Manager's Report was accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Per diem for attendance of meetings was discussed. Bulletproof glass for the front lobby was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • March 2023

	This month	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Revenue	\$2,775,308	\$9,388,074	\$9,474,474
Power Bill Expense	1,569,773	4,888,153	5,178,556
Operation & Maint. Expense	598,323	1,716,076	1,681,901
Depreciation Expense	221,352	662,883	625,707
Interest Expense	129,069	366,218	334,721
Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense)	2,518,517	7,633,330	7,820,885
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	256,791	1,754,744	1,653,589
Other Margins	34,964	73,137	53,350
TOTAL MARGINS	\$291,755	\$1,827,881	\$1,706,939

