

Missouri

August 2026



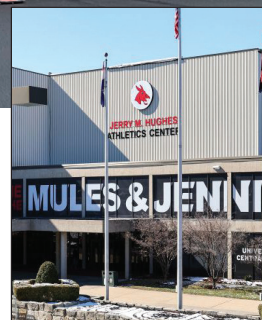
West Central Electric Cooperative

Electric News Special Annual Meeting Edition

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Complete member guide to Annual Meeting 2026



Your cooperative's 87th annual meeting is nearly upon us, and this issue of West Central Electric News will give you the latest on all you need to know.

Inside the pages of this annual meeting special edition, you will find the official notice of the meeting, candidate profiles of those running for positions on the board of directors, the schedule for the evening and directions to the arena.

The 2026 annual meeting will be held Friday, Aug. 28, 2026 at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center on the Uni-

versity of Central Missouri campus in Warrensburg.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. The meal line and vendor booths will also open at this time.

During the evening, members will have the opportunity to vote for their directors via iPad voting, facilitated by representatives from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. Bring your registration card from the July 2026 issue of West Central Electric News to register for the meeting, prizes and voting.

The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m., and will include the 2026 State of the Cooperative Address, reports of business and committee reports.

Drawings will be held at the end of the evening, and members could win certificates for free electricity and other prizes donated by WCE contractors and annual meeting vendors. Each member registering for the meeting will receive a \$25 energy credit. There will be special giveaways and prize drawings for kids in attendance.

We hope to see you Aug. 28!



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

District office

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-939-3639

To report outages 24/7

Call: 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Online: www.westcentralelectric.coop
Mobile app: SmartHub®

Connect with us

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*
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*
Colby Dowell, *Director*
Elizabeth Houtsma, *Director*

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

Owned by those we serve.

Annual meeting special edition

Serving with honesty and transparency

Serving our members with honesty and transparency is our theme for 2026. Your cooperative is designed to run as a well-oiled machine, providing the most reliable service at the most affordable cost.

This is made possible by a process set up to ensure member-owners are the ones who designate those in control. As member-owners of your electric cooperative, you elect a board of directors from the membership of the cooperative. The directors you elect define their expectations of the general manager, as well as provide policies and strategic goals to ensure the cooperative operates soundly.

The general manager then creates a plan and delegates responsibilities to employees and staff who help carry out that plan.

The general manager collects information regarding how the plan is being carried out and reports those results to the board of directors. The board then considers how the plan is working, and makes adjustments as needed.

As a result, your cooperative runs smoothly and efficiently, with member-owners ultimately in charge of overseeing the success of their cooperative.

Monthly board reports printed in your member newsletter, updates on all the things the cooperative is accomplishing, and the board president's message and general manager's State of the Cooperative address at the annual meeting provides that **honesty and transparency** that your board and employees strive for every day!

2026 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, Aug. 28, 2026 at the
Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center, 500 S. Washington St.
on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Mo.

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., Knob Noster, Mo.

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

Robert Simmons, Secretary
August 3, 2026



Annual Meeting 2026 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 1,100 members and guests in attendance.

Informational booths and displays open at east end of the Multipurpose Building.

6:45 p.m.

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 7) reports of business, and election of directors (profiles on pages 4-5.)

**Prize
Drawings**

- ♦55" Vizio 4K SmartTV donated by NW Electric
- ♦\$25, \$50, \$100 energy certificates
- ♦\$500 FREE electricity! (Applies to the bill due in October)
- ♦Kids' prizes: Razor Color Rave electric scooters with helmets, JBL wireless headphones and gift cards for ice cream!!

**Vendor
Booths**

- ♦Kids' Area with giveaways and prize drawings
- ♦Various booths highlighting resources and services around the area
- ♦Meet the WCE linemen and see the equipment they use
- ♦Learn how your meter works
- ♦Sign up for SmartHub and learn about the benefits of using the app

2026 Board of Directors Candidates

Robert Simmons
Warrensburg, Mo.

DISTRICT 3 INCUMBENT



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, President of Missouri Veterans Home Assistance League in Warrensburg and a board member of the Central Missouri Community Credit Union.

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. I have earned my board CCD certification (Certified Cooperative Director) as well as my BLD certification (Board Leadership Development).

Richard Strobel
Concordia, Mo.

DISTRICT 3 INCUMBENT



Occupation: Farmer

Family: Wife: Linda; Children: Amanda, Christina & David; Grandsons: Tyler; Tanner & Ethan; Granddaughters: Olivia; Claire and Isabel

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 25 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 15 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 20, 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 just over 11 cents per kilowatt, and very reliable with brush removal being done annually.

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

2026 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee

Densil Allen Jr.
Knob Noster, Mo.

DISTRICT 5 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 Kate Ruddock, Reagan (Bryce) O' Donnell and great-granddaughter Charli; 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 15 years. I look forward to working through the challenges we are facing in the electric industry with a strong board that is dedicated to the members. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve.

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

To continue to use all of the knowledge and resources we are provided with to provide our members with a reliable and affordable source of electric power. As a society, we use more electricity today than we ever have, and we have to be able to meet those demands in a way our members can afford. I believe it is important to keep up with the renewable energy resources and continue to 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? As always, 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.



The 2026 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met April 30, 2026 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Members of the WCE Nominating Committee are:

District 1: Kyle Grumke and Blaine Beissenherz

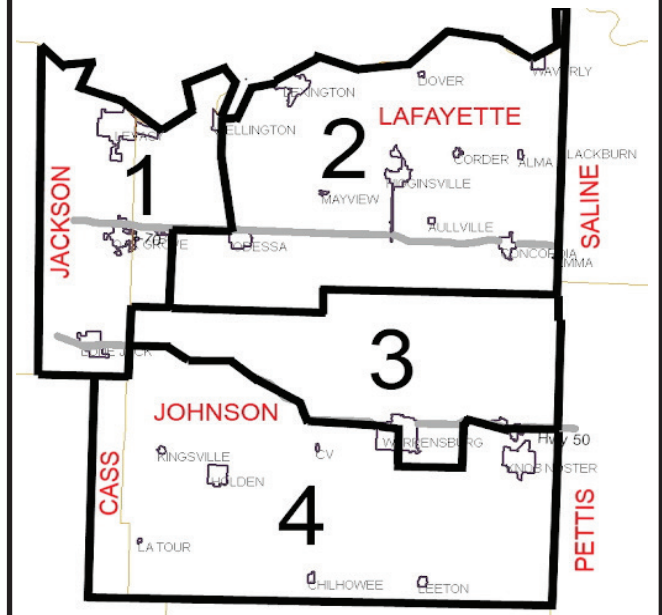
District 2: Lance Tieman and Paul Nolte

District 3: Virginia Haller and Jeremy Sanders

District 4: William Grauberger and Laura Smith

District 5: Stephanie Othic

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.*

Cooperative will return \$1.75 million in capital credits to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return \$1.75 million to its members in capital credit (member equity) refunds in 2026, according to WCE CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in July or August (depending on your billing cycle) for all active members. Checks were mailed to inactive members in 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 the cooperative at 1-800-491-3803.

Capital Credits (member equity) returned in 2026

*Capital credits will appear as a credit to your electric account on your July/August billing.
Credits being distributed this year:*

**\$1,400,000 of 2006 & 2007
\$350,000 of 2025**

If you were were a member of the cooperative during these years, you should receive a credit or check.

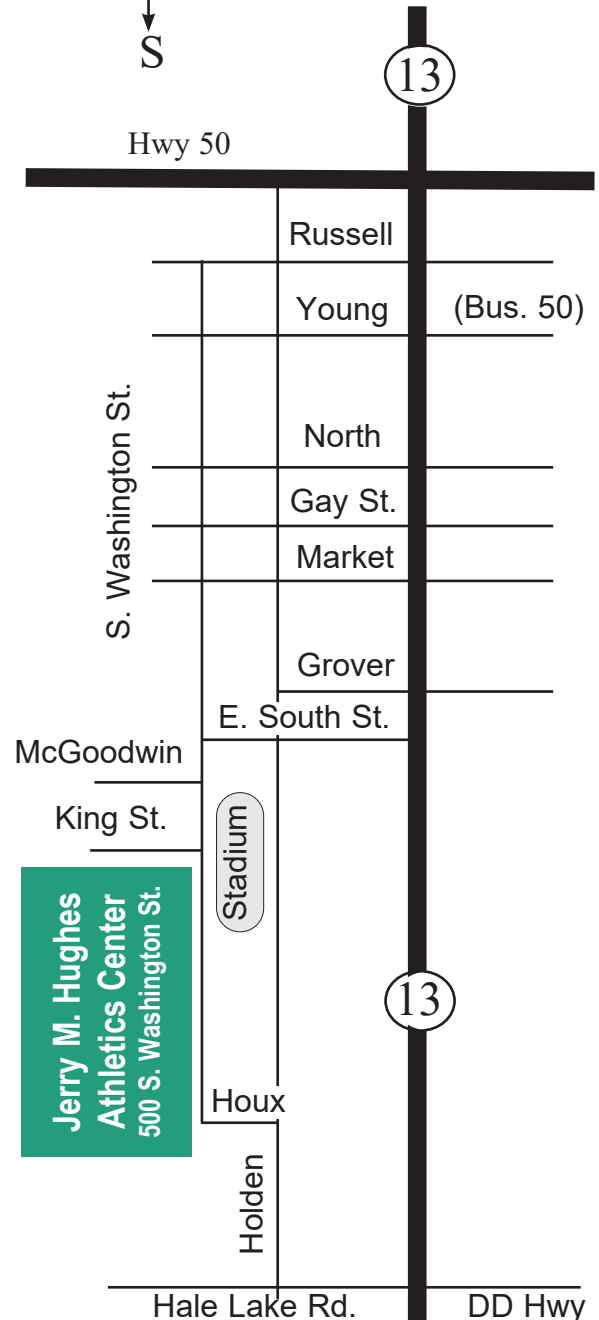
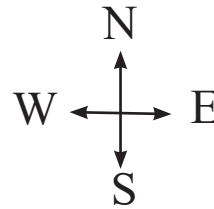
**Please direct capital credits questions to the cooperative's Higginsville office:
1-800-491-3803.**

IF YOU MOVE...

Please be sure to keep us updated on your address so you continue to receive the capital credits (member equity) due to you.



Map to UCM Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center



**Free parking is available
on the north, west and south
sides of the building.**

2025 Minutes to be approved at the 2026 annual meeting

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members, Aug. 1, 2025
to be approved at Aug. 28, 2026 Annual Meeting of Members

The 86th Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "cooperative"), was held at the Jerry M. Hughes Athletics Center on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Johnson County, state of Missouri, on Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and notice to membership.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Youth Tour representative Delaney Howe led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was played. 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 155 members, and 573 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.

Secretary Robert 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 2024 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 2024 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

Smiley called on Nominating Committee Chairman Paul Nolte to present the report of the director nominating committee. Nolte affirmed

that the committee nominated Colby Dowell from District 1, Stan Rhodes and Heather Pettet from District 2, and Elizabeth Houtsma and Jack Pollard from District 4.

Smiley conducted the election of directors. She noted that there were no nominations received by petition. She noted that since there was only a single candidate from District 1 that it was appropriate to elect Dowell by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Dowell from District 1. She then instructed members to vote for one candidate from District 2 and one candidate from District 4. She asked the election inspectors to collect the ballots.

GUEST SPEAKER

Caleb Jones of AMEC gave a presentation on industry updates.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Michael Newland presented the manager's report, updating the membership on operations, maintenance, finances, right-of-way maintenance programs, outages, and rates. He also thanked the staff for their support and dedication to the cooperative.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Employees conducted the drawing and distribution of attendance prizes.

ELECTION RESULTS

Smiley returned and reported that Rhodes received 261 votes and Pettet received 134 votes, so Rhodes would be the director for three years from District 2, and that Houtsma received 281 votes and Pollard received 136 votes, so Houtsma would be the director for three years from District 4.



WCE delegate Hannah Cochran (right) and new friends visit the Washington Monument on the 2026 Youth Tour. (Inset: YLC finalist Cochran participates in her interview for the prestigious National Youth Leadership Council.)



WCE delegates Hayley Jenkins, Aiden McDonald and Hannah Cochran visit the U.S. Capitol Building.



WCE delegate Hayley Jenkins tries out the president's desk in the replica Oval Office at The People's House: A White House Experience. The People's House is an educational museum experience with exhibits, hands-on displays, and exclusive insights, including stories of presidents, first families, and key figures who have shaped American history.

Youth Tour delegates take on D.C.

"This trip is amazing! I truly didn't understand the impact it would have on me, not only flying for the first time and seeing the Washington Monument, but also meeting so many people from different backgrounds," 2026 WCE Youth Tour delegate Hannah Cochran said.

Why do electric cooperatives bring high school students to Washington, D.C.? Because it is important to learn about the political process and to interact with your government.

In June, Hayley Jenkins, Aiden McDonald and Hannah Cochran joined more than 100 other youth from across Missouri on the **National Rural Electric Youth Tour** where they were able to take in all our nation's capital has to offer and witness government at work on Capitol Hill.

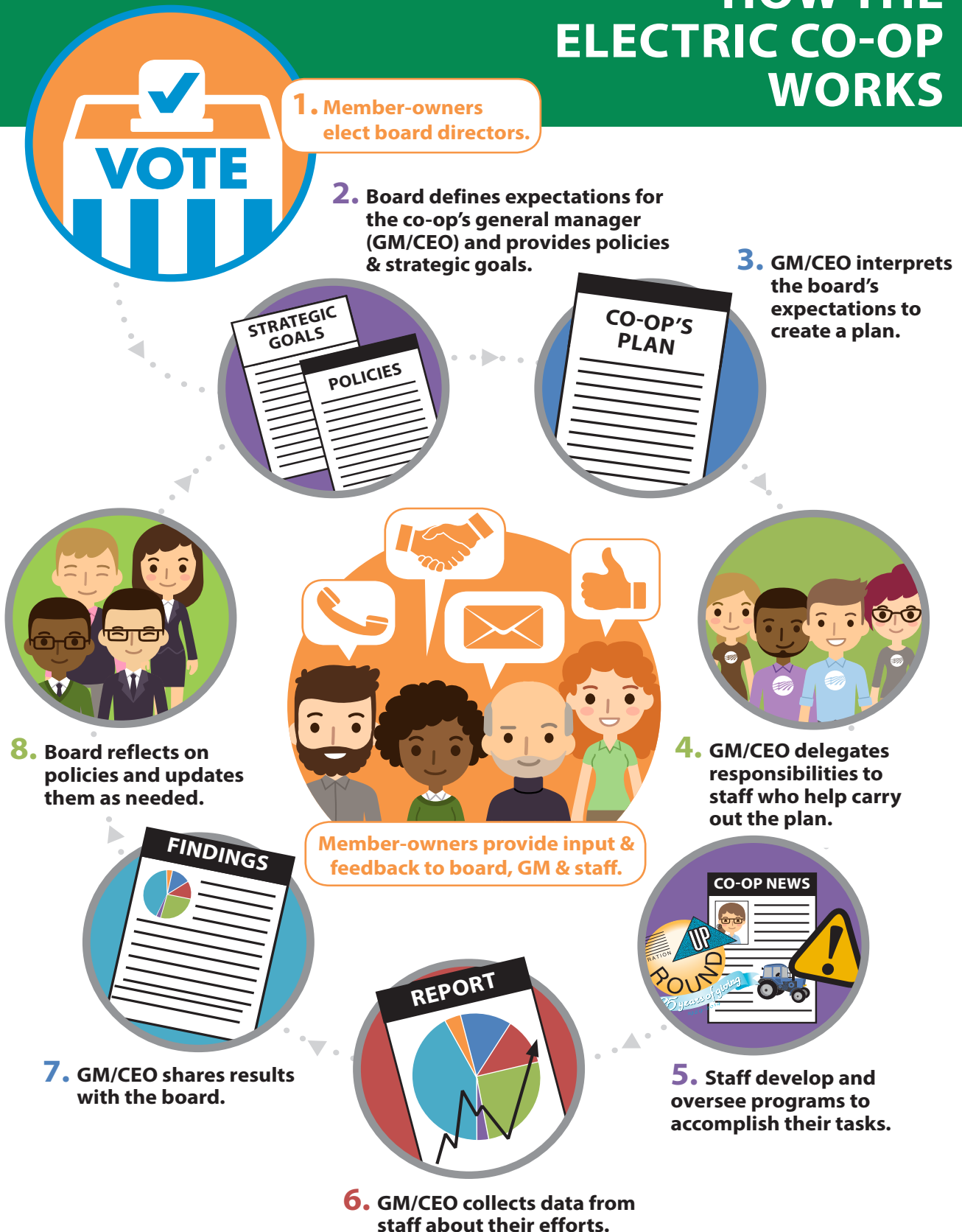
Nearly 100,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this unique program, with participants going on to become doctors, teachers, aircraft designers, law enforcement officers and even top legislators in the U.S. Senate. Students walk away from this week a better leader and with a sense that they can make a difference. Delegates also return with a new appreciation of America and her history.

Time and again, delegates both past and present choose the same words to describe their experience, calling Youth Tour "the trip of a lifetime," and basking in the experiences and friendships they gained while in our nation's capital.

WCE has sent 84 area students to our nation's capital since reestablishing the Youth Tour program at the cooperative in 1992.



HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 28, 2026.

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative in Higginsville, Mo., at 9:30 a.m. on May 28, 2026, 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. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes Colby Dowell and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting on April 23, 2026; expenditures for the month of April 2026; new membership applications and membership terminations and the treasurer's report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the April 2026 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. She reported on interest rates, borrowing funds, and projections for April. She gave updated budget numbers and items that have not been billed yet. She reviewed investments. Equity was reported on. The cash flow statement was reviewed. The audit was provided for the board in their board packets. New services connected were reported on. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following staff reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written operations report. He reported on crews, career days where presentations were given to local schools, mechanic and fleet, and outages. Right-of-way clearing and how it impacts outages was discussed. He also reported on maintenance, brush crews, right-of-way and new services. He reported the banners at the veteran's home had been changed out.

Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written safety and engineering report. He reported on new subdivisions. The OO highway conversion and pole changes were reported on. He gave a Lone Jack update. Estimating and billing are being worked on with NISC. The rising costs of aluminum wire and duct resin was reported on. Issues with contractors timely completing work was discussed.

Safety Report: Safety & Compliance Manager Cody Brock gave a safety report. Safety meetings and crew visits were reported on. There was damage to one truck door when the wind caught it. Audits were reported on. As of April 30, 2026, the employees worked 1,275 days without a lost-time accident, and drove 36,691 miles for the month. The crisis communications handbook was finalized and distributed. The emergency action plan is being worked on.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, the communication department activities, and presentations by the co-op at local schools. Scholarships were presented at area schools. Gift baskets were presented to police departments and sheriffs' departments for National Police Week. Net metered solar systems and rebates were reported on. The CRC web session and the AECI Touchstone Energy Service Excellence programs were attended. He also reported on chamber meetings he attended. He handed out the survey that has been drafted to give to members at the annual meeting and discussion was held. He provided a report on key metrics and payment options. The paperless billing campaign was discussed. The phone service will change so that members calling in will be able to choose between going directly to a payment option or speaking to a member services representative.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Smiley reported on the nominating committee meeting. Simmons, Allen Jr., and Strobel were nominated. A discussion was held on how to handle voting at the annual meeting and to allow for advanced voting if there are no contested elections. It was decided to keep the voting as originally planned with AMEC handling advanced mail-in ballots and being present at the meeting with iPad voting. A member survey was discussed and a motion was made and passed to send a survey to every member. How to send the surveys will be discussed at the next meeting.

NW BOARD REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW board report. The auditor provided the audit report and it was reported as a clean audit with no modifications. They reported on margins, deferred revenue, equity, and outages. The board approved a new loan. The NW board strategic planning meeting was attended earlier in the month. They reported on a new loan that was approved by the board. Bredehoeft attended the AMEC District 1 meeting prior to the NW meeting. He reported on the meeting and nominations made for the AMEC service awards.

CFC AND FEDERATED ANNUAL MEETING VOTING DELEGATE

Bredehoeft was chosen as the CFC and Federated voting delegate and Ahmann was chosen as the alternate.

AMEC ANNUAL MEETING VOTING REP. AND ALTERNATE

Bredehoeft was chosen as the AMEC annual meeting voting representative and Simmons as the alternate.

AMEC BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE

Bredehoeft was named as the AMEC board member and Newland the alternate.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the manager's report. He reported on meetings attended including a legislative meeting in Washington, D.C., where he was asked to speak. Dowell also attended that meeting and gave a report. Newland reported that the board strategic planning meeting is June 9-10. Locates, annexations and Lone Jack were also reported on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jarman discussed the board policy on nepotism and the per diem for online courses. It was decided the policy committee should review both policies for potential changes.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:46 a.m. and was out at 12:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2026 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Revenue	\$2,913,007	\$15,111,890	\$15,021,232
Power Bill Expense	1,837,259	8,543,643	8,695,458
Operation & Maintenance Expense	835,901	2,986,522	2,933,682
Depreciation Expense	227,997	907,231	865,473
Interest Expense	148,596	589,754	559,143
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,049,753	13,027,150	13,053,756
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(136,746)	2,084,740	1,967,476
Other Margins	29,243	181,599	133,961
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(107,503)	\$2,266,339	\$2,101,437