

February 2024



West Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



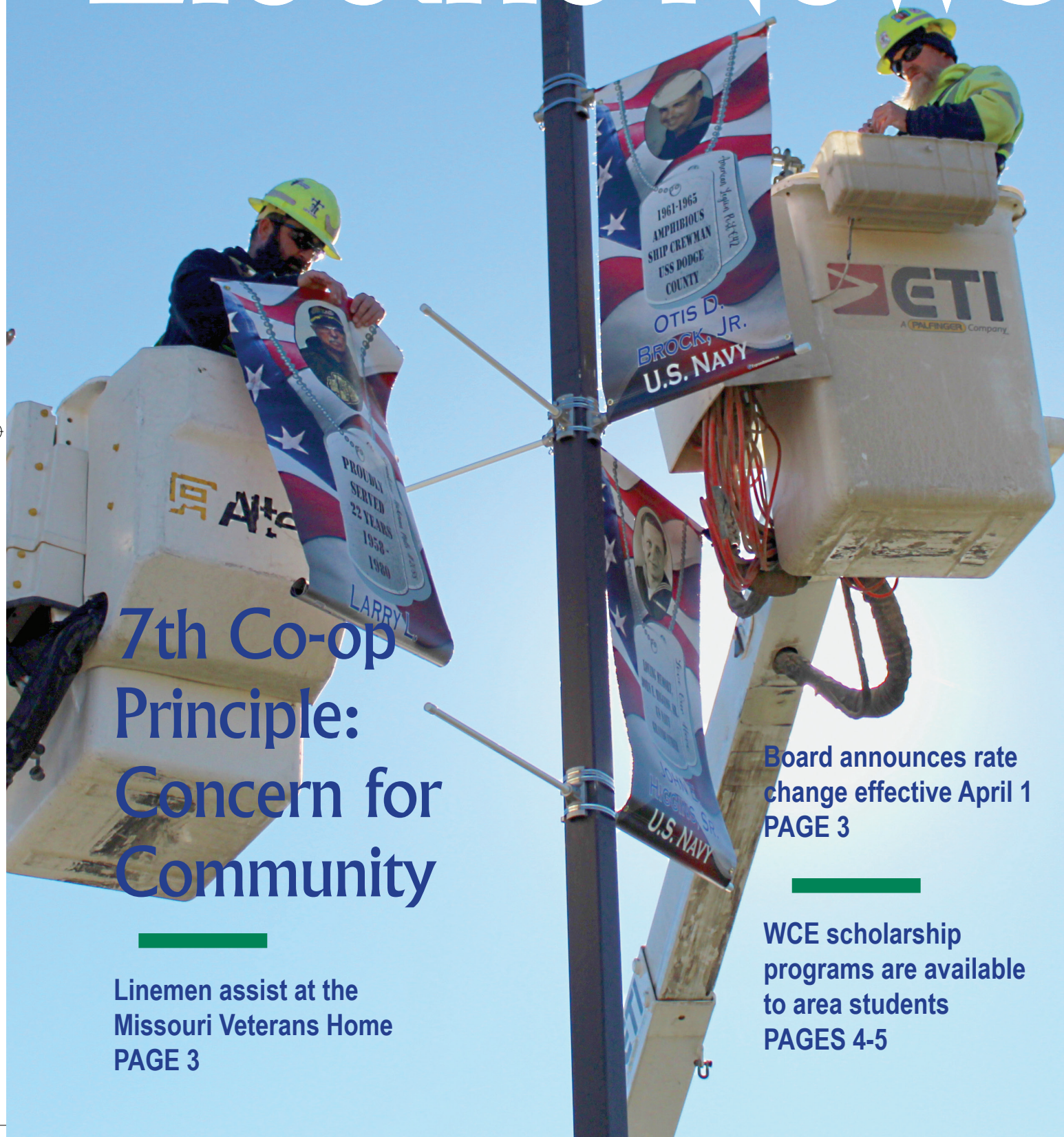
# Electric News

## 7th Co-op Principle: Concern for Community

Linemen assist at the  
Missouri Veterans Home  
PAGE 3

Board announces rate  
change effective April 1  
PAGE 3

WCE scholarship  
programs are available  
to area students  
PAGES 4-5





## IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

### 2024 Rural Electric Youth Tour contest

Essays must be turned in to the Higginsville office no later than 4:30 p.m. Feb. 9, 2024.

Essays submitted online must arrive by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 9, 2024.

Applications for the

### 2024 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than Feb. 16, 2024.

Applications submitted online must arrive by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 16, 2024.

Applications for the

### 2024 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than March 8, 2024.

Applications submitted online must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 8, 2024.

Applications for the

### 2024 WCE Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship

must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2024.

Applications submitted via email must arrive by 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2024.

## 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-President*;  
Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*; Robert Simmons, *Secretary*;  
Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Secretary*; Richard Strobel, *Director*;  
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*; Colby Dowell, *Director*

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

ON THE COVER: WCE linemen Brandon Heck and Tim Frerking repair banner hangers at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg.

## Rate change is necessary to continue serving members

### Increases in costs to buy equipment, provide reliable service can no longer be absorbed

Rate Increase...not something I wanted to bring to you my first year as manager. When I spoke to you at the annual meeting, I said we were working with our consultants to determine the lowest cost of rates needed to maintain our electric system. I'm back with answers on that. The rate increase needed is 8.8%.

As a West Central Electric member, you are accustomed to hearing it straight when it comes to how your cooperative operates. We run lean; therefore, there aren't many places to cut.

Since our last rate increase in 2021, costs for much of the materials we buy (transformers, meters, poles, etc.) have nearly doubled. Our cost of power alone is projected to increase by over \$2,300,000. These are things out of our control. We have cut where we are able, and we run as efficiently as possible. However, we cannot absorb the power cost increase without a rate increase.

This is something that we take very seriously, and something that weighs heavy on our minds. We have a responsibility to you and your families, and that is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. In order to provide reliable power, we must continue to trim trees that get into our lines causing power outages, and we also must continue to invest in your electric plant so that we can maintain proper voltages as member electric demand increases.

When we make decisions like this, we make decisions that affect all of us. Your entire board of directors and most of the management team at West Central Electric live on our lines; therefore, this affects us, our neighbors, and friends. When I drive home in the evenings, I am proud to see the lights on for all my neighbors and their families. This is something your board of directors and WCE employees share. We will make sure that when you flip a switch, your lights come on.

Even though we can no longer avoid an increase, we are still able to keep our rates lower and our reliability higher than many other electric utilities. That is why you have entrusted us as your cooperative, and we take that trust seriously.

Thank you for trusting us to continue to provide you with the safest and most reliable service at the lowest cost possible.



**Michael Newland**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

## Linemen assist with banner hardware repairs at Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg

In our ongoing quest to live out the 7 Cooperative Principles, West Central Electric recently put one into action assisting the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg with their Tree of Stars Banners program that features photos and information about area veterans, several who are currently living in the home.

The brackets holding the banners were in need of repair, so linemen Tim Frerking, Brandon Heck, Tucker Crowe, Derek Cole and Conner Lamphier spent some time this winter repairing the brackets and rehanging the banners.

"They did an excellent job," said Latisha Koetting, supervisor of volunteer services. "The care and thoughtfulness they put into each one of them was heartwarming."

Koetting said the banners are sold in memory or honor of veterans, and helps provide Christmas to each veteran living in the home. The program began in 2021 when Covid restrictions put limits on normal fundraisers.

"This year we have 46 light pole banners flying over the veterans home with messages of inspiration and have honored about 300 veterans total," she said. "Seeing the faces of our airmen, sailors and soldiers reminds us every day who we are serving."

More information: [Latisha.Koetting@mvc.dps.mo.gov](mailto:Latisha.Koetting@mvc.dps.mo.gov).



## WCE board announces rate change

### New residential and commercial rates will take effect in April

As costs associated with providing electric service have continued to increase over the past few years with no real end in sight, West Central Electric's board of directors has determined that a rate increase is necessary to ensure stability of the cooperative's finances into the near future. New rates will take effect in April.

"Although the increase is necessary to continue to provide reliable service, because we are not a profit-driven company, any margins we do make are returned to our members," Newland said. "For that reason, we do everything we can to control expenses and still maintain quality

service to you."

The change amounts to a total overall revenue increase for the cooperative of 8.8 percent. The new residential rate will see charges for the first 800 kWh set at \$0.1049 (up from \$0.096) and over 800 kWh at a reduced rate of \$0.0884 (up from \$0.0795.) The service availability charge will increase \$0.05 to \$1.37 per day.

The new commercial three-phase monthly rate will be \$0.0878 (up from \$0.0798) for all kWh. The service availability charge will increase from \$2.24 per day to \$2.34 per day.

The commercial and industrial large power monthly rate will be \$0.0531 (up from \$0.0472) for all kWh. Demand stays the same at \$11.60, and service availability increases from \$4.79 per day to \$5.00 per day.

Increases in dusk-to-dawn (\$9.20 to \$9.90) and street lights (\$14.20 to \$14.90) per month will round out the increases.

These decisions follow a cost-of-service study done late last year to determine what the cooperative needs to continue to provide members with reliable electric service.

"The board and management take a rate increase very seriously, and we are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and keep expenses down," Newland said.

Residential members who use 1,500 kWh per month can expect a monthly increase of \$14.87. Residential members whose usage is 3,000 kWh per month can expect a monthly increase of \$28.22.

WCE last increased rates in 2021, and the cooperative is far from alone in addressing the issue of increasing rates to cover costs of providing members with reliable electric service.

"Cooperatives around the state and nation have been experiencing this same dilemma over the past few years," Newland said. "Some cooperatives have had to raise rates sooner than others, and fortunately, we have been able to absorb costs for a little longer than some before having to pass them along to our members."

#### Sample Residential Monthly Bill Increase:

| 1,500 kWh per month usage |                 | 3,000 kWh per month usage |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Current bill:             | \$172.60        | Current bill:             | \$291.85        |
| New bill:                 | <u>\$187.47</u> | New bill:                 | <u>\$320.07</u> |
| Difference:               | \$14.87         | Difference:               | \$28.22         |
| Increase:                 | 8.6%            | Increase:                 | 9.7%            |

#### WCE Rate Schedule

(Monthly Electric Rates effective April 2024)

##### Residential 101 Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$1.37 per day  
First 800 kWh @ \$0.1049      Excess kWh @ \$0.0884

##### Commercial Three-phase 503 Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$2.34 per day  
All kWh @ \$0.0878

##### Commercial & Industrial Large Power Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$5.00 per day  
All Kw Billing Demand @ \$11.60  
All kWh @ \$0.0531

##### Lighting

Dusk-to-Dawn @ \$9.90 per month  
Street Lights @ \$14.90 per month

# ipsSCHOLARSHIPScholarshipsSCHOLARSHIPSc

## 2024 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship

### I. Amount of Scholarship

This year, approximately 20 high school seniors meeting DESE graduation requirements will receive a \$1,000 West Central Electric Cooperative scholarship for use at any college, university, trade or technical school the fall semester after their senior year/high school graduation.

### II. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, religion or color.
- B. The applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a current WCE member.
- C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.
- D. Students MUST provide an ACT score or equivalent college entrance exam score to apply.

E. A high school transcript must accompany the application. **\*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.**

F. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question #7 on this application.

G. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. If you submit your application online, please email a photo to [heather@wccecoop.com](mailto:heather@wccecoop.com).

H. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED.**

I. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.)

### III. Restrictions

A. Children and grandchildren of current West Central employees and directors are not eligible to apply.

B. Four-year recipients of the John and Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust will not be considered.

### IV. Application Deadline

All applications **must be postmarked on or before March 8, 2024.** Send applications to: Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### V. Online applications

Scholarship applications are available online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out online and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wccecoop.com](mailto:heather@wccecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. March 8, 2024.**

### VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by **May 1, 2024** by mail.

## 2024 John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship

### I. Background

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Trust was created under the terms of the Last Will & Testament of Kathryn English. The purpose of this trust is to provide scholarship grants for high school seniors who meet DESE graduation requirements, and who are or were active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation, and who desire to attend college the fall semester following their senior year/high school graduation to pursue a degree. John English, a former director of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., designated West Central's Board of Directors as Trustees of the Memorial Scholarship Trust.

### II. Amount of Scholarship

The John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee will award one \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) to a student beginning his/her freshman year in college. This student may reapply for additional funds for their next three years of study. Renewal requests will be filed in the spring and submitted with a transcript for the previous school year. Grants will be paid out by semester as long as the student remains enrolled full-time and meets academic requirements stated on the renewal application. The amount of these grants may vary due to availability of funds. The committee may decide to make one or more one-time scholarship awards based on merit.

### III. Selection Criteria

- A. The applicant will be selected without regard to sex, race, religion or color.
- B. The applicant must attend a high school in West Central Electric's service area -- Lafayette, Johnson and eastern Jackson counties (including Oak Grove, Lone Jack and home school students) OR have a parent or legal guardian who is a current West Central Electric member. Districts NOT in the WCE service area (Sherwood, Grain Valley, Ft. Osage, etc.) may have students who qualify based on a parent or legal guardian being a current member of the cooperative.

C. A cumulative 3.0 or better grade point average is required.

D. Students MUST provide an ACT score or equivalent college entrance exam score to apply.

E. Participation in 4-H at the time of high school graduation is required.

F. Two reference letters are required. No letter may come from a relative, and one letter must be from an adult involved with 4-H (for example a project leader, a 4-H youth specialist, etc.)

G. Students must submit a copy of their completed Missouri Report Form (including required signatures) along with their application.

H. A high school transcript must accompany the application.

I. The Scholarship Committee will consider financial need and special circumstances when selecting the winner of this scholarship. Please address financial need and any special circumstances when answering question #4 on this application.

J. Please submit a recent photo along with your application. This photo will be used for press releases and for the WCE newsletter if you are selected a winner. If you submit your application online, please email a photo to [heather@wccecoop.com](mailto:heather@wccecoop.com).

K. Finalists will be required to participate in an interview with the scholarship committee. If applying, you should tentatively plan to be available that evening for interviews, should you be named a finalist.

L. All scholarship applications **MUST BE TYPED.**

M. High School counselor must sign your transcript. (Home school transcripts are accepted, but must be signed by the teacher.) **\*\*Applications received without transcripts WILL BE PENALIZED.**

### IV. Restrictions

Children and grandchildren of current WCE directors are not eligible to apply.

### V. Application Deadline

All applications **must be postmarked on or before Feb. 16, 2024.** Send applications to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### VI. Online applications

Scholarship applications are available online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." Applications may be printed and mailed, or filled out online and emailed. If you choose to email your application, please also either email your photo as a jpeg to [heather@wccecoop.com](mailto:heather@wccecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 16, 2024.**

### VII. Finalist Notification

Interviews will be scheduled for the evening of **Wednesday, March 27, 2024.** All students applying for this scholarship should tentatively plan for an interview on this date. Those scheduled for interviews **will be notified by Friday, March 1, 2024.**



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## 2024 West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distribution Systems Scholarship

### I. General Description

West Central Electric Cooperative, Higginsville, Missouri, will accept applications from students interested in pursuing a degree in Electrical Distribution Systems at an accredited institution in Missouri, Kansas or Iowa. This program provides for students a scholarship as well as on-the-job training. General provisions of the scholarship are as follows:

### II. Eligibility Requirements

A. Applicant should reside in the West Central Electric Cooperative service area.

B. Applicant shall be expected to participate in an interview with the cooperative general manager and/or staff representatives in April of the application year.

C. Applicant should be a student in good academic standing with a minimum 2.5 high school cumulative GPA, or GED with 260 minimum score.

D. Applicant should be **admitted as a full-time student to the school of choice, and be accepted into that institution's Electrical Distribution Systems Program.**

E. Applicant should attend school commencing during the Fall semester immediately following receipt of the application.

F. Applicant is required to complete a summer internship at West Central Electric Cooperative.

### III. Selection Criteria and Award of Scholarship

A. To be considered, applicants must submit a complete application by the **scholarship application deadline of April 1, 2024**. The criteria used to evaluate applications for award will be based upon the following:

- Academic achievement
- Civic involvement
- Leadership
- Ability to communicate clearly defined personal goals through personal goal statement (on application)
- Financial need
- Interview conducted by the general manager and/or cooperative staff

B. Selection Priority: This is a one-time annual scholarship awarded to full-time students attending an accredited EDS program. West Central Electric Cooperative will determine the number of awards based on need and the number of applicants as well as the availability of funds. In the event a student is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester in the year the scholarship is awarded, the scholarship may be transferred to the next available alternate.

C. Scholarship Award: The scholarship provides up to \$5,000 annually to begin in the fall semester upon the student's verified enrollment. The scholarship may be used for the cost of tuition, fees, books, tools, and/or other costs associated with a student's education. The scholarship is renewable each semester if the recipient meets the continued expectations of the scholarship, up to \$10,000 maximum per recipient.

### IV. Application

Deadline for application to assure consideration for the next following academic

year is **April 1, 2024**. Please submit the following to be considered:

- Letter of acceptance to an accredited institution and admittance to the school's EDS program.
- High school transcript, college transcript or official GED score report.
- Complete scholarship application, including personal goal statement.
- Two letters of character reference.
- Applications may be printed and mailed along with transcript or GED report and letters, or you may apply online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) under the heading "Youth Programs." If you apply online, please mail your high school transcript or GED score report and your letters of reference. Applications submitted via email **must arrive by 4:30 p.m. April 1, 2024**. Please also either email your photo as a .jpg to [heather@wcecoop.com](mailto:heather@wcecoop.com) or mail a photograph along with your transcript and letters.
- Applications may be mailed to West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attention: Heather Hoflander. P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037.

### V. Expectations of Scholarship Recipient

A. Recipient must maintain 3.0 GPA per semester. There will be a one (1) semester probation should the student's grades fall below a 3.0 GPA. Failure to return to a 3.0 could mean loss of scholarship. Applicant will provide the cooperative with a transcript at the end of each semester.

B. Recipient must attend all classes and work as scheduled. Excessive school attendance absences may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.

C. Recipient must comply with the institution's student policies and rules. Failure to abide by such policies and rules may result in suspension or termination of the remainder of the scholarship benefits.

D. Recipient must contractually agree to work at West Central Electric Cooperative for four years following completion of the degree. A copy of the employment contract is attached as Exhibit A. The receipt of this scholarship is expressly contingent upon the successful applicant executing said employment contract, Exhibit A. Failure to complete the contract would mean reimbursement of the scholarship based on incomplete term. Employment after graduation will be solely at the discretion of West Central Electric Cooperative management. The employment contract may be changed or terminated at any time due to employee misconduct or if a position is not available.

E. In the event the student initially awarded the scholarship is unable to fulfill the requirement of full-time enrollment for the fall semester, the scholarship may be awarded to the next available alternate.

F. Release of Information: In submitting the application, the applicant grants permission for the scholarship committee to review high school and college transcripts and to contact character references. Submission of the application also grants permission to promote and publicize the scholarship and recipient(s).

G. Recipient must submit an official transcript to West Central Electric Cooperative at the conclusion of each semester to verify eligibility and GPA.

### VI. Winners' Notification

Recipients of the scholarship will be notified by **May 1, 2024**.

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**Scholarship applications are available from your high school counselor's office, online at [www.westcentralelectric.coop](http://www.westcentralelectric.coop) or from West Central Electric Cooperative's Higginsville office. Call WCE at 1-800-491-3803 for more information.**

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# 5 pro tips to reduce your energy use in the winter

To help keep the heat on for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid (and save a little money along the way):

1. Select the lowest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it down several degrees whenever possible. Your heating system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.

**Pro tip:** Seal air leaks around windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping. Air leaks and drafts force your heating system to work harder than necessary.

2. Stagger your use of major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers.

**Pro tip:** Start the dishwasher before you go to bed and use smaller

countertop appliances like slow cookers and air fryers to save energy.

3. Ensure that your heating system is optimized for efficiency with regular maintenance and proper insulation.

**Pro tip:** Make sure your furnace filter isn't clogged and dirty. Replace it as needed.

4. When possible, use cold water to reduce water heating costs.

**Pro tip:** Setting your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save energy and reduce mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

5. Unplug devices when not in use to eliminate unnecessary energy use. Even when turned off, electronics in standby mode consume energy.

**Pro tip:** Plug devices into a power strip so you can turn them all off at once with the push of a button.

## BEST BETS FOR

# Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

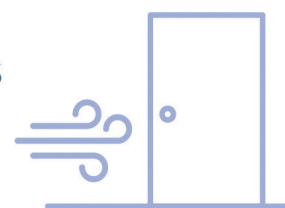
### UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE



Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

### ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



### USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



### MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.



### LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).







Operations Manager Scott Gard visits with member Pat Ficken during the annual Member Appreciation Day in December.

# We appreciate our members every day

Although West Central Electric's official "Member Appreciation Day" is held each year at Christmastime, we want you to know we appreciate you EVERY day.

We appreciate our members who participate in the Operation RoundUp program, enabling us to help fund needed projects in our local communities. Grants are available four times a year, so let us know if you have a project that needs help with funding.

We appreciate the many acts of kindness from our members during periods of severe weather. From helping us pull out a stuck truck to dropping by with a hot cup of coffee for our linemen working in the elements, your acts do not go unnoticed.

We are thankful for your patience and kind words when we are restoring your power during challenging and sometimes dangerous situations.

To our members willing to serve on our nominating committee, board of directors and RoundUp Board -- we appreciate your dedication to your cooperative and your communities.

Member Appreciation Day may officially come around only once a year, but rest assured, all of us at WCE appreciate you EVERY day!



WCE members Carolyn and Mike Hutchko sign up for Member Appreciation Day drawings during the annual open house.

## 2023 Member Appreciation Day winners:

### Willie Wiredhand Ornaments:

James & Deborah Davis, Odessa  
Roland Davis, Mayview  
Lynda Huffman, Bates City  
Megan Romer, Oak Grove

### \$25 Energy Certificates:

Karl & Helen Adkison, Warrensburg  
Kim Little, Waverly  
Charles Daehler, Lexington  
Timothy & Angela Sullivan, Knob Noster  
Tiffany McCurley, Odessa  
Suzanne Poe, Bates City  
Beatrice Cummins, Oak Grove  
Kristie Dobbins, Oak Grove



# FROM THE WCE BOARDROOM

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Nov. 30, 2023

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, Nov. 30, 2023, 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. Secretary Robert Simmons caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Simmons, Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes and Colby Dowell. Also present were General Manager Michael Newland and Attorney Sheri Smiley.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After discussion, the agenda was approved.

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Oct. 26, 2023; minutes of the special board meeting held Nov. 9, 2023; expenditures for the month of October 2023; new membership applications and membership terminations.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

The following October 2023 reports were approved:

**Financing and Treasurer's Report:** Accounting Manager Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the October 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. The impact and adjustments of sales of trucks and equipment was discussed. Certificate of Deposits that are maturing were reported on. The Bank of Odessa had the highest rates. The board approved the staff recommendation to purchase new CD's at staggering terms at the Bank of Odessa.

**Operations and Safety Report:** Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written Operations Report. He reported on crews. There were no major outages to report, but there was one non-co-op vehicle accident that broke a pole. Mechanic work and fleet were reported on. He gave an update on bucket trucks and fleet. Brush crews and right-of-way was reported on.

**Safety and Engineering Report:** Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. Four crew visits were done. Safety meetings were reported on. OSHA compliance review was done on fire extinguishers, blood clean up and smoke detectors. An energy/staking department report was given. Hours worked without a lost-time accident and hours driven in October were reported on.

**Member Services Report:** Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a report to supplement his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment and updates. A social media campaign was reported on. Net metering and rebates were reported on. A Power Town safety demo was presented at Concordia. He reported on chamber meetings attended and on the Holden Chamber of Commerce kick-off to the Christmas season the co-op will participate in.

## COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY

Toth & Associates presented the cost-of-service study. Craig Woycheese



and Lali Handwerker with Toth joined the meeting by Zoom. They reviewed revenue requirements, cost of service and rate design, operating expenses, capital expenses, capital credit retirements and debt service. Proposed adjustments by rate class were presented. Much discussion was held and will be considered at a later time.

## REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 4.7

Policy 4.7 was presented and approved.

## REVIEW AND APPROVE 2024 BOARD MEETING DATES

The following dates were set for 2024 regular board meetings:

Jan. 24-25 (Board Retreat), Feb. 22, March 28, April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 26, Dec. 19.

## NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland reported on the November NW meeting. They reported on the budget, staffing and outages.

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman reported on scholarships.

## 401(k) PENSION PLAN AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

The board adopted a resolution amending the 401(k) pension plan.

## LEGAL REPORT

Smiley reported on legal matters.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. The request for a donation to the AMEC PAC of \$2500.00 was made and approved. Newland reported on the city of Lone Jack meeting he attended. He gave an update on the site in Lone Jack and that he is working on fleet.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was held on the bylaws and clean-up language that may be needed, as well as looking at the districts. Newland and Smiley will review and bring back recommendations.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 12:10 p.m. and adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • October 2023

|                                              | This month         | YTD 2023            | YTD 2022            |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                               | <b>\$2,366,333</b> | <b>\$27,429,293</b> | <b>\$27,342,459</b> |
| Power Bill Expense                           | 1,459,464          | 15,856,578          | 15,556,878          |
| Operation & Maint. Expense                   | 608,775            | 6,426,967           | 6,472,914           |
| Depreciation Expense                         | 227,006            | 2,236,153           | 2,122,471           |
| Interest Expense                             | 139,162            | 1,240,215           | 1,146,885           |
| <b>Total cost of Service (Total Expense)</b> | <b>2,434,407</b>   | <b>25,759,913</b>   | <b>25,299,148</b>   |
| Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)    | (68,074)           | 1,669,380           | 2,043,311           |
| Other Margins                                | 258,211            | 577,751             | 213,724             |
| <b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>                         | <b>\$190,137</b>   | <b>\$2,247,131</b>  | <b>\$2,257,035</b>  |

