

June 2023



West Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electric News

Co-op leaders bring priorities to US Capitol

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WCE allocates capital credits for members purchasing electricity in 2022.

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Second-quarter RoundUp grants are awarded

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June is recalculation month for Level Pay Plan accounts

Here's a tip...

Water and electricity don't mix

Summer fun often revolves around water, but remember that electricity and water don't mix!

- Be sure your pool & boat dock are ready for summer with an inspection by an electrician.
- Keep any electric-powered devices away from water.
- Never plug in anything when your hands are wet.
- Be sure outdoor outlets are protected by GFCIs.



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.

ON THE COVER: West Central Electric Director Robert Simmons (visiting here with U.S. Rep. Sam Graves) was among representatives from electric cooperatives across the nation visiting Capitol Hill during the April 2023 NRECA Legislative Conference. Co-ops urged Congress to prioritize reliability of the electric grid, protect programs within the 2023 Farm Bill that are utilized by co-ops and enact legislation creating a revolving fund for the Southwestern Power Administration.

What can your

Co-op Connections card

get you at this month's featured businesses?

Banner  Coulson
CHEVROLET

10% off
oil change
**one-time use only*

Banner-Coulson Chevrolet
3401 Hwy. 13 Blvd., Higginsville Mo. • 660-584-2175

Must show Co-op Connections card or app

Free Gift
with \$10 purchase
**one per person*

K&A CREATIONS
Crafter's Market 

K&A Creations Crafter's Market
200 E. Clinton, Bates City Mo. • 816-690-8505

Must show Co-op Connections card or app

Free Upgrade
Upgrade 16x20
wall portrait to
20x24 FREE

 pure life
photography

Pure Life Photography
1906 Main St., Higginsville, Mo. • 660-584-7873

Must show Co-op Connections card or app

Install the app or visit www.connections.coop to find participating businesses in your area and across the nation.

*Find the complete list of local deals at www.westcentralelectric.coop.

2023 RURAL ELECTRIC *Youth Tour* & *CYCLE*

WCE delegates are set for this year's Youth Tour and CYCLE trips

HIGGINSVILLE, Mo. – After a close competition, featuring top-notch speeches from students around the area, three area high school students are preparing to pack their bags for a week in Washington, D.C.

Serena Sartin of Knob Noster High School, Karson Morris of Oak Grove High School and Madison Chenault of Warresburg High School were named winners of the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour competition sponsored by West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. They will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 12-18 for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Finalists in the 2023 competition participated in the second round April 12 at West Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters in Higginsville. The students delivered their essays during the oral competition, with the top three winners receiving the trips to the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The nine finalists were the top students from among the 55 entries.

Following a Youth Tour reception June 12, Missouri's 100-plus-member delegation will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 13. While there, delegates will visit, among other places, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam Wall and Korean War memorials. They will get the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery, and take an evening dance cruise on the Potomac River. Also on the agenda is Youth Day which is attended by delegates from across the country, and a day on Capitol Hill where students can meet with their representatives in Congress.

Six students were named winners of the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience (CYCLE) in Jefferson City July 19-21. Students chosen to represent WCE at CYCLE were Oak Grove High School students Michael Dean, Bradley Guernsey, Samantha Meyer, Chloe Patridge and Mason Weber and Cailey Verdeja of Crest Ridge High School.

CYCLE, which is coordinated by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, has been recognized as the top cooperative youth conference in the nation. During the conference, students will spend a day at the Missouri State Capitol Building, learn about cooperatives, participate in leadership and team-building activities, and hear top-notch speakers. For more information on the Rural Electric Youth Tour or the Cooperative Youth Conference and Leadership Experience, please contact West Central Electric Cooperative at 800-491-3803.



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Serena Sartin



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Karson Morris



YOUTH TOUR WINNER
Madison Chenault



2023 CYCLE delegates
are congratulated by WCE
Board President Densil
Allen Jr. and General
Manager Michael Newland.
(L-r): Allen, Michael Dean,
Chloe Patridge, Mason
Weber, Bradley Guernsey,
Samantha Meyer, Cailey
Verdeja and Newland.

West Central allocates capital credits for 2022

West Central Electric Cooperative's margins have been allocated to each member/owner who purchased electric energy in 2022, according to General Manager Michael Newland.

Because rural electric cooperatives' business structure differs from investor-owned utility companies, the money WCE makes as margins (profits) is returned to the member/owners who use the service, rather than to unknown investors. The money is used as equity in the cooperative, and is returned to the members over time as determined by your board of directors.

West Central Electric tries to balance the system by staying financially strong while also returning the profits to its members over time. Each year, the board of directors decides how this will be accomplished.

You can calculate your own allocation for the year by using the formula in the box below.

The percentage used in the formula was determined by the total margins (profits) of the cooperative, and the total cost paid for our wholesale power in 2022. This year, your allocated amount for 2022 will appear on the bill you received in May.

If you have a non-rural/residential account, any questions regarding how to calculate your allocation, or if you do not know your year-to-date patronage, contact Rebecca Hoeflicker at the Higginsville office at 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803.

Total paid for electricity in 2022
(Beginning with the bill reflecting usage for January 2022 and ending with the bill reflecting usage for December 2022.)

0.103188504704015

2022 allocation
(Applies to rural/residential rate only.)

Example:
\$1,000 total billing for 2022

\$1,000
X
0.103188504704015
\$103.19
2022 allocation

Hoeflicker takes reins of WCE finance department

Rebecca Hoeflicker has been named the new accounting manager in the Higginsville office, West Central Electric General Manager Michael Newland announced recently.

Hoeflicker replaced Newland in the role, after he accepted the general manager position earlier this year.

Hoeflicker lives in Higginsville with her husband, Brett, and their boys Landon, Evan and Seth. She loves spending time at her kids' activities and said she looks forward to being a part of the WCE family.

"West Central Electric has a great reputation in the community, and I look forward to being a part of the team," she said.



Hoeflicker

Be ready for summer with this HVAC checklist

Here's what you should expect a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician to do in a seasonal checkup of your home. The advice comes from Bob Vila, nationally known home improvement and remodeling expert; the U.S. Department of Energy; and ENERGY STAR.

- Check for correct amount of refrigerant — too much or too little will make your system less efficient, increase energy costs and reduce the life of the equipment
- Test for refrigerant leaks using a leak detector — the performance and efficiency of your air conditioner is greatest when the refrigerant charge exactly matches the manufacturer's specification
- Capture any refrigerant that must be evacuated from the system instead of releasing it into the atmosphere; the contractor should know the federal rules about proper disposal of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, the two most common types of air conditioning refrigerants
- Clean evaporator and condenser coils — dirty coils restrict air flow and the system's ability to cool your home
- Clean and adjust blower components to provide proper system air flow for greater comfort — air flow problems can reduce your system's efficiency by up to 15 percent
- Verify the correct electric control sequence, and make sure the heating system and cooling system cannot operate simultaneously
- Inspect electric terminals, clean and tighten connections and apply a non-conductive coating if necessary
- Lubricate motors and check belts for tightness and wear
- Check the thermostat's accuracy and set it to be comfortable without wasting energy while you're away
- Check for and seal duct leaks in central systems
- Check return air grilles and supply air registers for proper sizing and placement

THANK YOU WCE members for funding these second- quarter RoundUp grants!



(L-r) RoundUp Board member Sally Davidson, Footsteps Camp Chairman Jerry Atkins, Footsteps Camp counselor Michael Plummer and RoundUp Board member Donna Matthews.

Footsteps Camps \$3,500

Funds will be used by Footsteps Camps, Knob Noster, to help fund summer camp opportunities for kids.

Wellington Comm. Christian Center \$5,000

Funds will be used for the center's Camp Agape to provide summer fun opportunities for kids.



(L-r): RoundUp Board President Dennis Knipmeyer, RoundUp Board member Sally Davidson, Camp Agape Executive Director Cailey Pingel, RoundUp Board members Donna Matthews and Kyle Grumke.



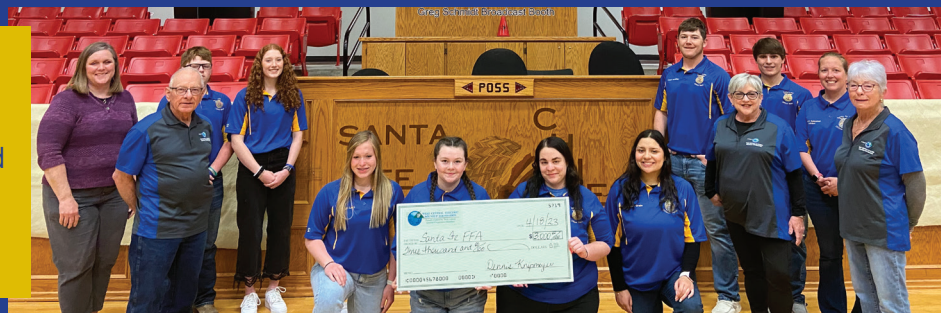
(L-r): volunteer Jean Falke, Director Craig Kidwell, Co-director Sharon Petkoff, volunteer Becky Smith, RoundUp Board member Kyle Grumke, volunteer Lynda Lewis, RoundUp Board members Kim Hall, Donna Matthews and Sally Davidson.

Odessa Community Service Center \$3,000

Funds will be used to provide food for at-risk senior citizens and children.

Santa Fe FFA \$3,000

Funds will be used to help fund the BackSnack Program which provides food for students in need.



Front row (l-r): RoundUp Board President Dennis Knipmeyer, Atleigh Lark, Grace Buford, Jasmine Templeton, Valerie Grado. RoundUp Board members Sally Davidson and Donna Matthews. Back row (l-r): RoundUp Board member Kim Hall, Gavin Nolte, Molly Malter, Landon Hostetter, Evan Finkeldei, FFA Advisor Martha Schreiman.

June is recalculation month for co-op level pay plan accounts

Members who are on the cooperative's Level Payment Plan will see their bills recalculated with the billing period ending in June, according to West Central Electric Accounting Manager Rebecca Hoeflicker.

"The new amounts will be reflected on the billing that is due in July," she said. "Those on Billing Cycle 2 (with due dates on the 22nd of the month) will see their new amount in June."

Sign up for Budget Billing...

For West Central Electric Cooperative members who have service in their name and have lived there for one year or more, budget billing can help avoid the peak bills that come with winter heating or summer air conditioning. Here's how Budget Billing works:

- The total of electric usage over the last 12 months is calculated.
- That amount is divided by 12 months to find the average monthly bill with cushion for weather changes.
- The amount due for that amount of kilowatts is rounded, plus a daily service availability charge, and \$9.20 if a security light is at the location. This is the monthly budget amount to be billed.
- Each month a bill is mailed showing actual usage compared to the estimate you pay.
- Your account is reviewed each year and if the energy consumption appears to differ significantly from the budgeted amount, the billing department may contact you to see if you would like to make an adjustment to your account.
- In June of each year, we true up and compare your actual consumption with what was paid. Your new 12-month average is determined and any credit or debit carryover is divided by 12 and added or subtracted for that 12-month average to determine your next year's monthly amount.

To receive full benefit of participation in the Level Payment program, you must make your monthly payment by the normal due date, maintain a good payment record with no returned checks on your account and no more than one trip for collection. Failure to do so may result in removal from the program and could result in a requirement to pay any balance due in full with the next regular monthly billing. For those members who are already on the Level Payment Plan, your new amount will be re-calculated with the billing period ending in June and be reflected on the billing that is due in July. Those members on billing Cycle 2 will see their new amount in June.

To sign up for the Level Payment Plan, or if you have any questions, please contact the billing department at 800-491-3803.

2023 John & Kathryn English Scholars



Ali Reid

*4-year, \$1,000 Renewable Winner
(potential \$4,000 award)*



Marissa Heins

*One-year Winner
\$1,500*



Julia Petsch

*One-year Winner
\$1,500*

***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 graduates who are active 4-H members at the time of their high school graduation and who desire to attend college 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.

2023 West Central Electric Cooperative Scholars

\$1,300 scholarship winners



Stryder Sumy



Ethan Unruh



Jackson Murry



Hannah Moyer



Elizabeth Ighoyivwi



Jacob Bacus



Caton Brown



Marlys Kanneman



Kirsten Streeter



Alyssa Fanoele



Brandon Ward



Kaleb Virus



Marissa Heins



Sydney Brant



Gracelyn Carver



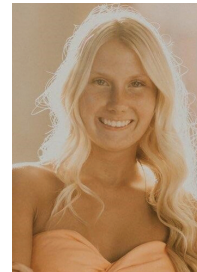
Megan Nieweg



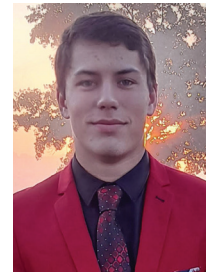
Margaret Hotmer



Jenna Shanks



Jaidyn Wood



Martin Dieckmann



Justin Floyd

*The **West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship** is available to students whose parents or legal guardians are current members of the cooperative. The funds are awarded to students graduating high school and planning to attend a college, university or trade or technical school the fall following their graduation.

FROM THE WCE BOARD

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held March 23, 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 was attorney Sheri Smiley. General Manager Michael Newland joined via Zoom.

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 February 23, 2023; expenditures for the month of February 2023; new membership applications and membership terminations.

APPROVAL/ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

The following February reports were approved/accepted:

Financing and Treasurer's Report: Accounting Manager Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the February 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. NW Capital Credits were reported on. The cost of the GM search was reported.

Operations Report: Operations Manager Scott Gard provided a report to supplement his written Operations Report. Pole changes and new services were reported on. There were no major outages for the month. Storm assistance to the State of Kentucky was requested by AMEC. A report was given on brush crews and right of way.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager 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. Make ready work was also reported on.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlottzauer provided a report to supplement his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment, a seminar he attended in communicating rate increases and demand charges. The English and West Central Electric Scholarships were reported on. Youth Tour finalists were announced. He gave a net metering report and a rebate report. He reported on visits he had with state legislators. Training from AMEC was attended via Zoom. Annual meeting prizes were discussed.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft provided a report on the AMEC meetings he attended Feb. 28-March 1. He discussed the strategic planning meeting he attended, income and expenses and staffing. AMEC will offer booths at annual meetings. He reported on iPad voting and the ability to record videos for annual meetings. He reported on the solar website, the State Fair, and Rural Missouri Magazine. He discussed legislation being tracked.

NW REPORT

Simmons gave a report on the meeting he and Newland attended. An AECl written report was provided. He reported on margins, deferred revenue, outages and the upcoming annual meeting. He also reported on work being done at substations.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following were appointed to the nominating committee: Adam Heater, Paul Nolte, Jeremy Sanders, William Grauberger, Lance Tieman, Charles Bartram, Virginia Haller, Stephanie Orthic and Tonya Adams.

NRECA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The directors who attended the NRECA Annual Meeting gave a report.

REVIEW/APPROVE BOARD RESOLUTIONS FOR RUS FORMS

Newland reported that resolutions needed to be updated for RUS. The following resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that Michael Newland, the general manager of the Corporation, be authorized to execute RUS Form 595 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (Electric). This certification is to remain in force until rescinded by resolution of the board of directors and notification of such action to RUS.

RESOLVED that Densil Allen, board president of the corporation, be authorized to execute RUS Form 595 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (Electric). This certification is to remain in force until rescinded by resolution of the board of directors and notification of such action to RUS.

BOARD POLICY FOR PER DIEM

A discussion was held regarding amending the policy for a per diem for meals. Smiley will bring back a policy update for further review.

COLD WEATHER RULES FOR PREPAID ACCOUNTS

Newland led the discussion on information that was provided on prepaid accounts.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave a legal report.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. He reported on the employee banquet, line loss, NW billing, and that next month he will present capital credits to consider for retirement. He also reported on a payment that was made for \$249 to a damaged fence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 12:20 p.m. and adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT • Statement of Operations • February 2023

| | This month | YTD 2023 | YTD 2022 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue | \$3,330,925 | \$6,612,766 | \$6,641,557 |
| Power Bill Expense | 1,585,036 | 3,318,380 | 3,630,254 |
| Operation & Maint. Expense | 588,064 | 1,117,752 | 1,131,863 |
| Depreciation Expense | 220,694 | 441,532 | 415,929 |
| Interest Expense | 107,057 | 237,149 | 217,353 |
| Total cost of Srvc. (Total Expense) | 2,500,851 | 5,114,813 | 5,395,399 |
| Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses) | 830,074 | 1,497,953 | 1,246,158 |
| Other Margins | 18,194 | 38,173 | 16,179 |
| TOTAL MARGINS | \$848,268 | \$1,536,126 | \$1,262,337 |

