



West Central Electric Cooperative

August 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electric News

Youth Tour delegates take on D.C.

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Annual Meeting 2025

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West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



**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: 1-855-939-3639

To report outages 24/7

Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Report online at
www.westcentralelectric.coop under
"Report Outage"

District office

506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:

www.westcentralelectric.coop



facebook



Instagram

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.

We would like you to participate

Striving to serve our members is our goal every day at West Central Electric Cooperative, and the way we know how well we are doing is to hear it straight from our members.

In the next couple of months, you may receive an email asking you to participate in a member satisfaction survey. We would appreciate you taking a little of your time to participate if you are contacted. The survey should take 13 minutes or less to complete.

This survey will rely on email to request

participation from our members, so having updated and accurate information on your account is important. If you don't have an email on file with us, please let us know so we can update your account, or you can add your

email in SmartHub.

Information regarding details of the survey and from where the survey will

come are on the facing page. Please contact us with any questions regarding the survey.

We would greatly appreciate your feedback!

Survey coming soon!



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Jerry M. Hughes Athletic
Center University of Central
Missouri campus

Registration, meal line &
vendor booths open at 5 p.m.

.....
*Annual meeting coverage
will be published in the October
issue of Electric News.*

*For election results,
check the WCE Facebook
page following the meeting.*



FRIDAY

Aug. 1, 2025



REGISTRATION

begins at 5 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

begins at 7 p.m.

**Bring your annual
meeting registration card
(mailed along with your
most recent electric bill)
to register for prizes,
and vote in the election
of directors.**

What you need to know



A letter to our members:

During September and October 2025, West Central Electric Cooperative will be sponsoring a survey that is conducted every two years to measure the quality of service provided to you and to ensure reliable service in the future. This survey will ask several questions about your satisfaction with the cooperative and your energy usage.

Your opinion is very important to us and we want to ensure that all members are represented in our final results. If you receive an email invitation to participate, we encourage you to take this opportunity to provide your feedback.

You may be sent an email invitation to participate in the survey online anytime between September and October 2025. [The email will come from West Central Electric \(surveys@cooperativesurvey.com\)](mailto:surveys@cooperativesurvey.com) with the subject: [West Central Electric Wants to Know What You Think](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942. If you do not complete the survey, you may continue to get email reminders requesting participation.

We appreciate your help!

Sincerely,
West Central Electric Cooperative



Missouri electric cooperatives offer scholarships up for grabs at state fair

The state's electric cooperatives have once again banded together to provide four \$550 scholarships to members visiting the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building during the Missouri State Fair.

Co-op members may fill out an application in the building any time during the fair, August 7-17. Applicants must complete an application form and return to the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building during the fair. Mail-in applications will not be accepted.

Scholarships will be awarded based on a blind draw. Applications must be legible.

TIMELINE

- Applications are due by the final day of the fair -- Aug. 17, 2025, by the close of the building at 6 p.m.

- Applicants will be notified if they are awarded a scholarship by Sept. 26, 2025.

CRITERIA

- Applicants must have permanent residency in Missouri.
- Applicant (or parent) must be a member of an electric cooperative in good standing.

- Applicants must show proof of acceptance as a 2025 student at a college, university and/or a vocational, technical school program for the upcoming academic semester.

The Missouri Electric Cooperatives Scholarship was established in 2021. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to member individuals enrolled in a college, university and/or a vocational, technical school.



**WCE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPT. 1
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY**



Youth Tour

is trip of a lifetime for local students

What makes electric cooperatives different from other utilities is that giving something back to the community is part of their business plan. 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. Students walk away from this week a better leader and with a sense that they can make a difference.

In June, Delaney Howe, Olivia Basinger and Ashlyn Kolb, 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. Delegates also return with a new appreciation of America and her history.

"Youth Tour was a blessing in disguise. It gave me an amazing opportunity to step out of my everyday life, habits, and outlooks to see more of what America has to offer," Kolb said. "The tour highlighted what we were built on as a country and the importance of community."

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.

"I met people from many walks of life, who each impacted me in many small ways," she said. "I got to hear amazing speakers who had very impactful, and empowering speeches. This trip gave me the 'step away from everything, adventure out and do,' that I needed. It wouldn't have been possible without all the people who have made me who I am, the experiences I've walked through, and most of all West Central Electric's wonderful members. Thank you!"

WCE has sent 81 area students to our nation's capital since reestablishing the Youth Tour program at the cooperative in 1992.



Mount Vernon, the boyhood home of first President George Washington, was one of the early stops of the week. WCE delegates (l-r) Ashlyn Kolb, Olivia Basinger and Delaney Howe start their tour of the grounds.

"This trip gave me the 'step away from everything, adventure out and do' that I needed. It wouldn't have been possible without all the people who have made me who I am, the experiences I've walked through and most of all West Central Electric's wonderful members!"

**--Ashlyn Kolb
2025 YouthTour Delegate**



WCE delegates Delaney and Olivia at the International Spy Museum.



Delegates and their families were treated to a VIP tour of the Missouri State Capitol Building prior to the reception to kick off Youh Tour 2025.



WCE delegates Delaney, Olivia and Ashlyn visit the United States Capitol Building on Youth Tour 2025.



The friendships and the connections are some of the greatest things delegates gain from Youth Tour. WCE delegate Ashlyn Kolb (right) and United Electric Cooperative delegate Madeline Clark grab a short rest from the miles of walking.

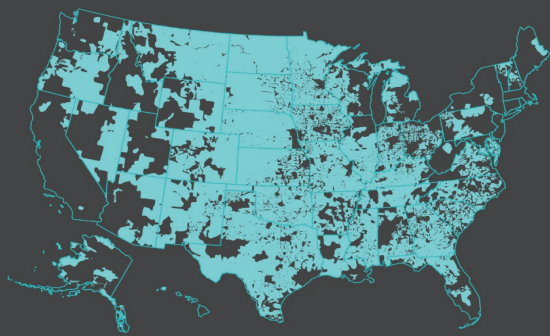


Missouri delegation, 108 strong, at the White House.

From your cooperative

ELECTRIC CO-OPS
ARE PROUD TO
POWER

56% of the
American
landscape.



Powering Your Life

“Electric co-ops power 56 percent of the American landscape. That adds up to about 42 million people across the country who receive their power from electric co-ops, and even more who benefit from the work cooperatives do in their local communities,” *Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer said.*

Electric cooperatives serve more than 40 million people in rural and suburban communities across the U.S., powering their lives and communities with electricity and more.

While each electric co-op is unique and adapts to their local members' needs, together, this network plays a vital role in transforming the communities we are proud to serve. Across the U.S., 830 distribution co-ops deliver power to their communities, and 64 generation and transmission cooperatives provide wholesale power to the distribution co-ops.

In Missouri, southern Iowa and northeast Oklahoma, a three-tier system comprised of 51 distribution cooperatives, six transmission cooperatives and generation co-op Associated Electric Cooperative provide service to more than 2.1 million members.

Nationwide, electric co-ops serve 1 in 8 U.S. residents in rural and exurban communities. Compared to other electric utilities, co-ops often serve areas with lower population density, lower median income and higher costs to deliver electricity per capita.

Electric cooperatives are locally-operated, making them capable of adapting to their local communities' energy needs. West Central Electric is proud to be part of the network that in total serves 22 million homes, businesses, schools and farms across the U.S.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS
SERVE



1 in **8**

**U.S. residents in rural and
exurban communities.**



Padmount Transformers

Do you have a “big green box” in or near your yard? While it may be tempting to conceal it or make it a part of the landscape, this is a padmount transformer, and there are regulations on how close to it you can plant, decorate or landscape.

West Central Electric requires an area of **10 feet away from the side with the doors**, and **five feet away from the other three sides of the box to remain clear**, according to District Operations Supervisor Matt Schellman.

“Padmount transformers are installed in the co-op’s easements, and are an essential part of the supply chain that provides power to your

home through underground electric lines,” he said. “They step down high-voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed to supply power to your home. Planting trees and shrubs, or landscaping around them can restrict access for co-op employees, and can be dangerous to members if they are digging around them.”

Your co-op must be able to access the padmount transformer at all times in case of a power outage or to perform routine maintenance. Anything obstructing access may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance.

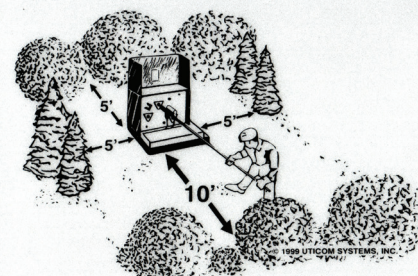
“Fences are a bigger problem than just about anything,” Engineering Manager Pete Nelson said.

“Some are literally right up against the edge of the box which allows us zero access without removal.”

Tampering with the box or lock, or covering the warning signs is not only dangerous, it is illegal. Children should be taught not to sit on, open, or play around a padmount transformer. By respecting all utility equipment, including padmount transformers, you can help keep the power on and your co-op workers and family members safe.

Contact WCE at 800-491-3803 with any questions or concerns about padmount transformers. For more about electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

NOTICE



We need room to work safely on this device. Please keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from the side with doors and 5 feet from other sides.

Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance.

This sticker appears on WCE padmount transformers outlining regulations for planting and landscaping near padmount transformer boxes.

**DO NOT PLANT
NEAR PADMOUNT
TRANSFORMERS**

Utility crews need at least 10 feet in front and 4 feet on the sides to work safely and quickly



Safe
Electricity.org®

“Planting trees and shrubs, or landscaping around (padmount transformers) can restrict access for co-op employees, and can be dangerous to members if they are digging around them.”

District Operations Supervisor Matt Schellman

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held May 22, 2025

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 9:30 a.m. May 22, 2025, 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, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann, Colby Dowell and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2025; expenditures for the month of April 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the April 2025 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, the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for May. She gave updated budget numbers. New services conducted were reported on. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE RUS DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

Hoeflicker reviewed the debt limit resolution needed. The board approved the resolution.

REVIEW AND APPROVE ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM KELSO-LYNCH, PC, PA

Hoeflicker reviewed the proposal from Kelso-Lynch for the 2025-2026 audit. The engagement letter was approved.

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, and outages and causes for the month, including an outage caused by a snake. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. Veterans home flags were hung. He gave a staffing report. Pole inspections were reported on. Linemen were sent to New-Mac and Central electric co-ops for storm damage. Trucks have been inspected and will be delivered soon. A brush crew update was given. Interns were reported on.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of April 30, 2025, employees have worked 910 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 42,293 miles as of the end of April without a serious accident. He reported on investigation accident training he attended, safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. AMEC will do OSHA compliance training this month. A new large load was reported on. SCADA was installed. The Lone Jack line was discussed. A meeting with Toth was reported on.



Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided an oral report to supplement his written Member Services Report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, school presentations, crisis communications training at AMEC, the newsletter, and candidate profiles for the annual meeting. He reported on a change to the net metering agreement and that one report of meter tampering was turned over to law enforcement. The Odessa Reality Check at Odessa High School was attended. Vote by mail for the annual meeting was discussed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Smiley presented the nominating committee report. She reported the following were nominated by the nominating committee on May 1, 2025: District 1: Colby Dowell; District 2: Stan Rhodes and Heather Pettet; District 4: Elizabeth Houtsma and Jack Pollard.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. The budget and a loan were reported on. An update on the Turney gas plant and Lone Jack was given. The 2026 annual meeting was discussed.

APPOINT AMEC ANNUAL MEETING VOTING REPRESENTATIVE/ ALTERNATE AND AMEC BOARD MEMBER

Bredehoeft was appointed as the representative for the AMEC Board and Newland as the alternate. Bredehoeft was named the voting delegate for the AMEC annual meeting and Newland as the alternate.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the Manager's Report. He gave employment updates and an update on the contract for the purchase of new meters. The policy on seasonal members and how that was being communicated was discussed. The co-op integrity fund was discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:01 a.m. and was out at 11:37 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$2,817,917	\$15,021,232	\$12,004,338
Power Bill Expense	1,875,597	8,695,458	7,086,581
Operation & Maintenance Expense	672,749	2,933,682	2,646,405
Depreciation Expense	216,978	865,473	832,150
Interest Expense	137,999	559,143	512,514
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	2,903,323	13,053,756	11,077,650
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	(85,406)	1,967,476	926,688
Other Margins	30,177	133,961	105,523
TOTAL MARGINS	\$(55,229)	\$2,101,437	\$1,032,211