



West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electric News



**Going
the
Extra
Mile**

•Annual Meeting Special Edition•

West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13, PO 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.*

Annual meeting special edition

'Going the Extra Mile' for our members

At West Central Electric Cooperative, we ALL play a part in **Going the Extra Mile** for our members. From being involved in community events and supporting our youth to keeping members informed on the status of a work order and getting outages restored quickly, we all strive to go the extra mile for you, our members.

We have a commitment to our local communities, which leads us to participate in area fairs and festivals, support school events and award RoundUp grants to help fund local projects and programs.

In 2025, as in past years, your board of

directors has authorized more recent returns of capital credits (member equity) in order to benefit our current, active members as well as past members of the cooperative.

Our mission to "focus on enhancing the quality of life for our members by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity in a professional manner" is paramount in everything we do.

All in all, **Going the Extra Mile** is second nature to us, because working for our members is just what we do! We hope to see you at the 2025 WCE Annual Meeting of Members on Aug. 1.

2025 Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2025 Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held: Friday, Aug. 1, 2025 at the
Jerry M. Hughes Athletic 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 ONE director each from District 1, District 2 and District 4 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 1

Colby Dowell, Odessa, Mo.

District 2

Stan Rhodes, Corder, Mo.

Heather Pettet, Odessa (Lake Lafayette), Mo.

District 4

Elizabeth Houtsma, Warrensburg, Mo.

Jack Pollard, Centerview, Mo.

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

Robert Simmons, Secretary
July 7, 2025



WCE 86th Annual Meeting Aug. 1, 2025

Jerry M. Hughes Athletic Center
500 S. Washington St. Warrensburg, Mo.

EVENING SCHEDULE:

5:00 p.m.

- ♦Registration begins. All registered members will receive a \$25 energy credit. Must be present to receive.
- ♦Old-fashioned co-op barbecue of hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, chips, cookies, tea & lemonade. Meals will be served to the first 1,300 members and guests in attendance.
- ♦Informational booths and displays open at east end of the Multipurpose Building.
- ♦Youth Tour presentation
- ♦Introduction of West Central Electric and John & Kathryn English scholars
- ♦Introduction of RoundUp Foundation board members and RoundUp report

7:00 p.m.

- ♦Business Meeting -- approval of minutes (located on page 7,) reports of business, and election of directors (profiles on pages 3-5,) Update from Caleb Jones, AMEC executive vice president and CEO

PRIZE DRAWINGS:

- ♦43" Samsung Crystal UHD SmartTV donated by NW Electric
- ♦Lodge cast iron skillet donated by NW Electric
- ♦\$25, \$50, \$100 energy certificates
- ♦\$500 FREE electricity! (Applies to the bill due in September)
- ♦Kids' prizes: girl's and boy's bike with helmets, stuffed Buddy Bear mascots and more!

INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS:

- ♦Kids' Area with giveaways and prize drawings
- ♦Various booths highlighting resources and services around the area
- ♦Meet the WCE linemen & more!

Colby Dowell
Odessa, Mo.

DISTRICT 1 INCUMBENT



Occupation: Efficiency Coordinator – KAT Excavation Inc.

Family: N/A

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I am a member of St. Luke Evangelical Free Church in Wellington. I am the board liaison to the RoundUp Foundation Board, and serve on the Policy Committee, as well as the Scholarship Committee here at WCE.

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I am running for this position on the board because I am always looking forward to the possibility of serving those around me. With that being said, I have a bachelor's degree in communication with a dual minor in business administration and leadership. I chose these refinements in post-secondary education because they are the most crucial areas to any business. I feel that with the combination of education and my personable approach I can serve the cooperative effectively.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? In my first three-year term, I familiarized myself with the policies and procedures of the WCE Board. In doing that I garnered board support and was nominated as RoundUp Foundation liaison. On this board, we redistribute funds collected by the members that have opted in to the RoundUp program to help fund local projects that positively impact the WCE community. I have also been appointed to the Policy Committee as well as the Scholarship Committee. It is an honor to be trusted as a youthful resource on these committees within my first term. In my next three-year term, I plan to finish my Board Leadership Certificate. Upon completion I can ensure I have gained the insight of the tenured board directors from around the country. I would also like to increase the number of WCE members that are opted into the RoundUp program. If 50% of our membership opts into the RoundUp program, we could collect and redistribute nearly \$36,000 a year. When done correctly we can open the door of opportunity for many community programs that are falling short on funding.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

In my opinion, there are a lot of new incentives to join solar in the county. I can see where this may create an issue of desired services from our members. I believe that keeping costs down from plant generation to household distribution is key to keeping WCE members happy and loyal to the cooperative.

Additional comments: At the end of the day, I enjoy being able to contribute to the well-being of those around me. I feel that continuing to serve on the WCE Board would be a great way for me to serve our community further. I sincerely appreciate this wonderful opportunity.

2025 WCE Board of Directors candidates

Stan Rhodes
Corder, Mo.

DISTRICT 2 INCUMBENT



Occupation: Farmer

Family: Wife, Vicky; two daughters: Madie; Bailey and husband, Atticus; three sons: Mason and wife, Missy; Spencer; Beau and wife, Katie; nine grandchildren: Marley, Roman, Ian, Ellie, Dax, Laurel, Emmie, Levi and Sawyer.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Corder Lions Club, Soybean Association, Corn Growers Association, John & Kathryn English Memorial Scholarship Committee and West Central Electric Cooperative Scholarship Committee

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? Prior to serving on the board of directors, I have been a co-op member since 1981. The board of directors plays a vital role in making the decisions that keep our co-op running smoothly and efficiently. I have enjoyed serving on this board for the previous 15 years, and feel I have the time and experience it takes to attend our local and state meetings, as well as fulfill all other obligations of being a director.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? My goals for the next three years are to continue to seek education on the constantly evolving electricity business, keep rates as low as possible, and help the co-op maintain and improve the reliable service we expect as members.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? Government and environmental issues are always two of the main concerns co-ops have to address. We need to keep our elected officials informed and educated on how their decisions can affect our cooperative.

Additional comments: I want to thank all the members for their past support. The 15 years I have served on this board have been a privilege, and I look forward to continuing to serve the cooperative in the future.

Heather Pettet
Odessa (Lake Lafayette), Mo.

DISTRICT 2



Occupation: Licensed Cosmetologist, Residential and Commercial Painter, Landscaper, Entrepreneur

Family: I am a single mother of five. Son: Trey Robinson, 21 who attends UMKC; Daughters: Aurora 16, a student at Odessa High School; Bianca, 8, a third-grader at Odessa Upper Elementary; Mary, 6 and Gwendolyn, 2.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I attend Rivers of Life Church. Rivers of Life is led by Pastor Robert McDaniel. I volunteer with my church in the inner city of Kansas City. Once a month we clean up trash, along with hosting residents to a cookout. We use this opportunity to meet with families who live in the neighborhood where we are cleaning up. We have many times been able to donate things that the families need like toys, clothes, window a/c units. Sometimes we can minister to them and help the people find resources they need. We are always striving to help in any way we can.

Why did you agree to run for a position on the board of directors?

I became interested in running for a position on the board of directors while reading the WCE monthly newsletter. While reading the newsletter something sparked inside of me. As a relatively new member of the co-op and the community, I want to get involved and contribute in a meaningful way. I believe that being on the board is a great opportunity to bring a fresh perspective and actively support the growth and well-being of the cooperative and its members. I feel qualified to serve as a director because I bring strong leadership skills and a willingness to speak up-even when my views may differ from the norm. I believe constructive, respectful dialogue is essential for good decision-making, and I'm committed to ensuring all voices are considered. I'm eager to listen, learn, and help shape a cooperative that serves its members effectively.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? My goals for my first three-year term are to listen, learn, and lead with purpose. As a new board member, I want to first gain a deep understanding of the cooperative's operations, priorities, and member needs. I aim to build strong relationships with fellow board members and the community to ensure I'm representing members effectively. Over the term, I hope to contribute to strengthening transparency, encouraging open communication between the board and members. Supporting initiatives that promote long-term stability and growth. I also want to bring a fresh perspective and help ensure that the cooperative is adapting to changing needs while staying true to its core purpose.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue? In my opinion, one of the biggest issues facing electric cooperatives today is finding the right balance between keeping electricity affordable and investing in sustainable, reliable energy solutions. Many families in our community-myself included-are feeling the impact of rising energy costs, and it is important that the cooperative keeps those concerns at the forefront. At the same time, we cannot ignore the importance of planning for the future. That means exploring more efficient technologies, supporting renewable energy where it makes sense, and making smart, responsible decisions that keep costs manageable while protecting long-term reliability. As a board member, I would listen to members' concerns, advocate for transparency, and work toward solutions that serve both today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

Additional comments: I am honored to be considered for a position on the West Central Electric Cooperative board of directors. As a new member of the community, I see this as a meaningful opportunity to get involved, give back, and help shape the future of our cooperative. I bring a fresh perspective, a strong commitment to doing what's right-even when it's not the easiest path-and a willingness to listen, learn, and speak up for what's in the best interest of our members. I care deeply about ensuring the cooperative continues to serve our community with integrity, transparency, and forward-thinking leadership. I appreciate your consideration and would be proud to contribute to the cooperative's continued growth and success.



Elizabeth Houtsma
Warrensburg, Mo.

DISTRICT 4 INCUMBENT

Occupation: Warrensburg Animal Hospital- owner; Hillside H Ranch-owner

Family: Husband, Greg Houtsma. Two daughters: Ava (19) is a freshman at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Stella (13) is in 8th grade at Warrensburg Middle School.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: Warrensburg Senior Center-Meals on Wheels, Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce, Warrensburg Tiger Athletics Booster Club, Northside Christian Church

Why did you agree to run for re-election to the board of directors? I originally became interested in serving on the board because I believe electric co-ops provide an indispensable service to their members. I'm at a stage in my life where I'm looking for ways to give back to my community and serving as a director is a way to do that.

What are your goals for your next three-year term? I believe it is critical that we keep West Central Electric strongly positioned to continue to provide safe, reliable, affordable electric service to our members in a sea of challenges including legislative, environmental and economic issues. I also want to see West Central continue to expand their community involvement and support through programs such as our scholarship fund and Operation RoundUp.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

One of the biggest issues facing co-ops today is the rapidly-growing demand for electricity across various sectors, and how to responsibly meet that demand. We must explore solutions to providing that needed energy, all while balancing affordability and reliability, while also juggling the effects that environmental regulations and federal decision making have on our ability to get the power we need. To address that issue within our own co-op we must listen to the needs of all of our members, and then explore options within the industry to satisfy those needs all while remembering that our mission is to "focus on enhancing the quality of life for our members by providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in a professional manner."

Additional comments: I've been on the board of directors for almost 1 1/2 years now and it has truly been a blessing and a privilege to serve my friends, neighbors and community in a tangible way. I've benefitted from being part of an electric co-op my entire life. First, growing up with Boone Electric, and now with West Central having been our provider since moving to Warrensburg over 20 years ago. My grandfather was a lineman with Boone Electric for 30 years, and I certainly benefitted from a co-op scholarship as I entered college. Being able to serve on the West Central board has felt like coming full-circle to me, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity.



Jack Pollard
Centerview, Mo.

DISTRICT 4

Occupation: Retired. I am a journeyman lineman and safety professional. I am a retired member of IBEW local 53.

Family: I am married to Pamela Pollard. She is a schoolteacher at Kingsville R1 school. I have 3 children, all of which live out of the area. I have 7 grandchildren.

Community groups and organizations, church, etc. to which you belong: I'm a Johnson Co Mo. Election Judge

Why did you agree to run for a position on the board of directors?

I have 54 years of experience in the electrical industry. I was an Area Supervisor at Grundy Electric Cooperative in Trenton, Mo. I have a strong electrical safety background. CUSP Emeritus and OSHA SSH.

What are your goals for your first three-year term? With my safety background I want to ensure that the employees have the proper training to keep themselves and the public safe. I also want to ensure our members receive the best service available at an affordable rate.

In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing electric cooperatives today, and how do you plan to address that issue?

Government regulations. I plan to work with other board members on the issue. Politics is a big factor especially with the unrest today.

Additional comments: None.

***Members will vote for ONE (1) candidate
each from District 1, District 2 and District 4**

Annual meeting special edition

2025 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee



Members of the 2025 West Central Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met May 1, 2025 to nominate individuals to be placed on the official ballot. Members of the WCE Nominating Committee are:

District 1: Adam Heater and Blaine Beissenherz

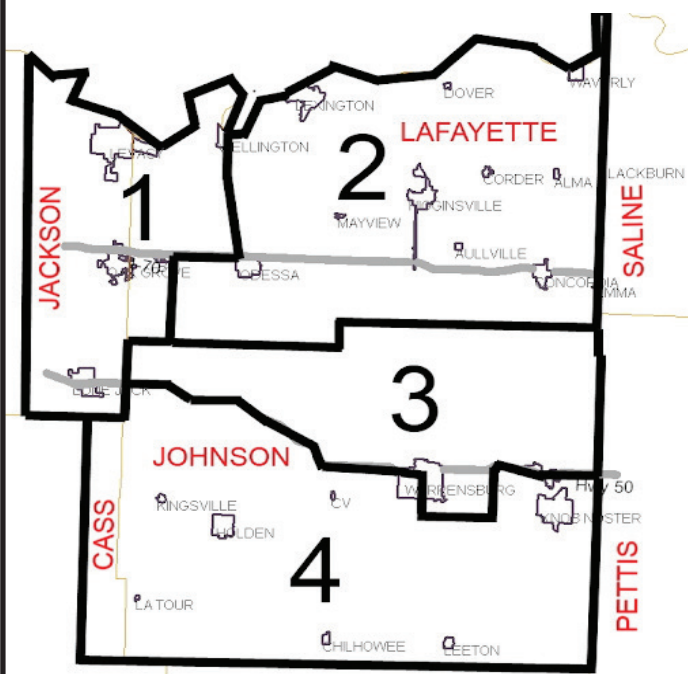
District 2: Lance Tieman and Paul Nolte

District 3: Virginia Haller and Jeremy Sanders

District 4: William Grauberger and Laura Smith

District 5: Stephanie Othic

West Central Electric Cooperative DISTRICT MAP

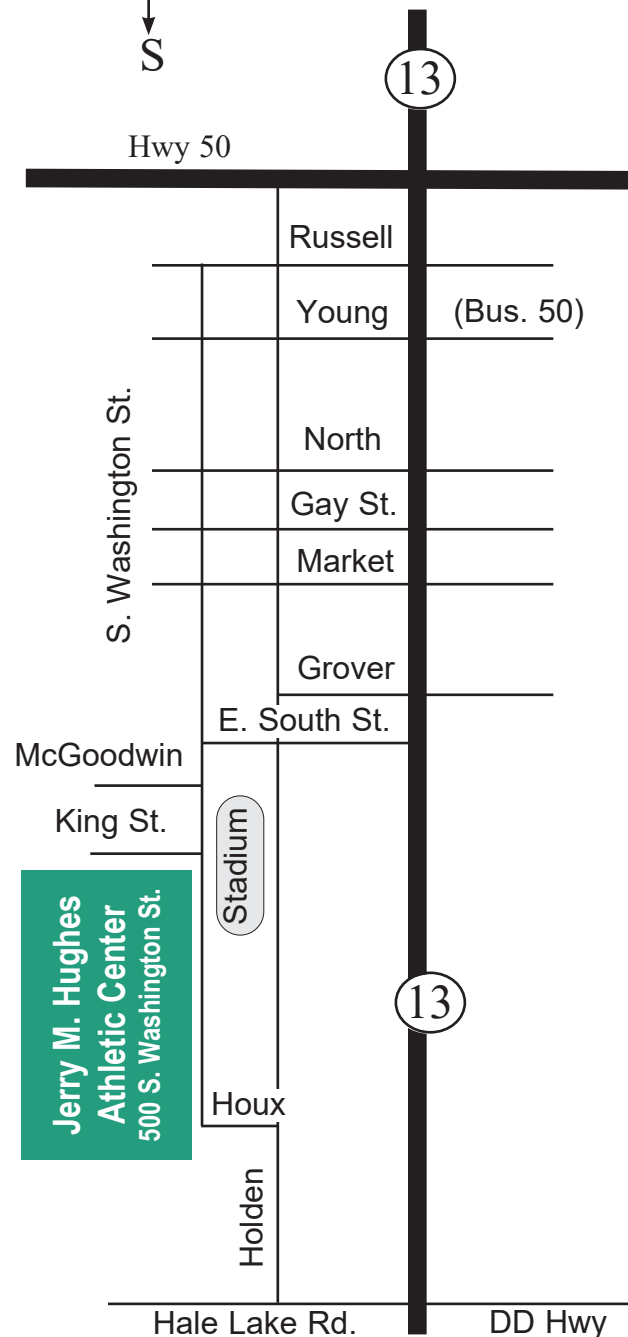
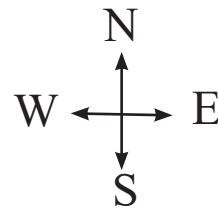


LEGEND

County lines ———
District boundaries ———

**District 5 is an "At-Large" district, and therefore encompasses the entire service area.*

Map to UCM Jerry M. Hughes Athletic Center



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

Annual meeting special edition

West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of Members, Aug. 2, 2024

To be approved at Aug. 1, 2025 Annual Meeting of Members

The 85th Annual Meeting of Members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "cooperative"), was held at the Multipurpose Building on the campus of the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Johnson County, State of Missouri, on Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and notice to membership.

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

BUSINESS MEETING

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

Youth Tour representative Saul Logan 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 149 members, and 567 members were registered at 6:30 p.m. It was therefore ordered that a quorum was established for the transaction of business.

Smiley presented the agenda of the meeting. On motion made, seconded and passed, the agenda was adopted as printed.

Simmons presented the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to waive the reading of the Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing. He referred attention to the minutes of the 2023 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 2023 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 Jeremy Sanders to present the report of the director nominating committee. Sanders affirmed that the committee nominated Jeremy Ahmann from District 1, Clark Bredehoeft from District 2, and Dale Jarman from District 4.

Smiley conducted the election of directors. She noted that there were no nominations received by petition. She noted that since there were only single candidates from each district that it was appropriate to elect Ahmann, Bredehoeft and Jarman by motion. On motion made, seconded and passed, the membership resolved to elect Ahmann from District 1, Bredehoeft from District 2, and Jarman from District 4.

Smiley then explained the proposed changes to the bylaws, specifically to Article I and Article IV. She asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the proposed bylaw amendments. She then asked the ballot counters to collect the ballots.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Joe Wilkinson of Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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 on the bylaws that Article I had been amended by a vote of 370 for and 76 against and that Article IV had been amended by a vote of 409 for and 55 against.

WCE Annual Meeting Voting MAIL-IN BALLOT PROCEDURES



Members who are unable to attend the 86th annual meeting on Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, may still participate in the board of directors election by mail-in ballot.

- You must submit a request for a voting packet either by calling the office and requesting a packet to be sent to you, or by mailing in the form that was included with your bill that is due in June.

- All requested ballots will be mailed to members after June 30, 2025.

- Once you receive your voting packet, you may cast your vote and follow the instructions to send the ballots to the cooperative's attorney.

- Marked ballots **must arrive NO LATER THAN July 31, 2025** at the cooperative attorney's office in order to have the votes included in the count.

- Members who are able to attend the meeting may still vote in person at the meeting and do not have to submit a mail-in ballot.

Questions regarding the mail-in voting procedures may be directed to Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer at 800-491-3803 or 816-565-4942.

Following is the bylaw article which allows voting by mail-in ballot:

Article III Meetings of Members

Section 5. Voting

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, or by mail-in ballot, in addition to those voting by any other lawful means established by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of said meeting and specified in the notice of the meeting, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these bylaws.

Section 6. Proxies

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

What you need to know

Cooperative will return \$1.5 million in capital credits to members

West Central Electric Cooperative will return \$1.5 million to its members in capital credit (member equity) refunds in July, according to WCE CFO Rebecca Hoefflicker.

A credit will be issued on the billing due in July or August (depending on your billing cycle) for all active members. A check will be mailed to inactive members the first part of July.

If you purchased electricity from the cooperative during the years listed in the box to the right, you should receive a check or credit. Checks will not be issued for amounts under \$5.00.

"If a member is on our level payment program, the credit will not affect their monthly amount due," Hoefflicker 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) refunded in 2025

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

**\$1,200,000 of 2005 & 2006
\$300,000 of 2024**

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.



USE YOUR VOICE

This fall, we will be starting our biennial survey to measure the quality of service provided to you, our members. This survey will be conducted via email, and we would appreciate your time in providing responses.

More details to come in the pages of your West Central Electric News member newsletter and our website at www.westcentralelectric.coop.



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Take Control & Save Rebate Program Changes

REMINDER -- Changes Effective July 1, 2025

ASHP / Mini Split (ducted) Systems

- Dual fuel requirement
- \$300/ton (replacement system with existing fossil fuel backup)
Increase from \$150/ton
- \$500/ton (new system with new fossil fuel backup)
Increase from \$150/ton
- Energy Star cold climate rating of 8.1 HSPF2 or greater
- Required AHRI & Invoice submission

Mini Splits (ductless)

- \$150/condensing unit
- Cannot be equipped with electric auxiliary heat
- Energy Star certified
- Limit of 2 condensing units/meter
- Required AHRI & Invoice submission

Ground Source Heat Pumps

- Required AHRI, Invoice and Manual J Load calculation submitted

Business Lighting

- Adjust "equipment" incentive levels
\$15/sensor or exit sign (maximum)
50% cap/sensor or exit sign

Heat Pump Water Heaters

- \$750/unit
Increase from \$500/unit
- No size restrictions

DISCONTINUED July 1, 2025: Window A/C, Electric Water Heater, VFDs for HVAC

DISCONTINUING Jan. 1, 2026: Level 2 EV Chargers

*Changes affect equipment purchased AND installed after June 30, 2025.

**Rebate forms & details at www.westcentralelectric.coop under "Saving Energy."

WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES

on the move

Retiree Disberger is back to assist cooperative part time

West Central Electric retiree Dan Disberger has rejoined the cooperative family as part-time help with staking, service inspections and special projects.

"I am enjoying this new role as part-time assistance to the co-op," Disberger said. "I am working on some of the things that I liked best about my job before I retired, but I also get to enjoy the slower pace."

Disberger started work at WCE in 1988 as an apprentice, and retired in 2021 as engineering manager. His 33-year career with the cooperative saw many changes in technology, safety practices and storm response, and he was one of several mutual-aid responders to fellow cooperatives in the South following Hurricane Katrina.



Barnett retires after 25 years as Member Services representative

West Central Electric Member Services Representative Stacy Barnett has retired after 25 years of assisting members at the Oak Grove location.

Barnett started her career at WCE on Aug. 30, 1999 as the area office associate at the Oak Grove office. Barnett has spent the past 25 years as the face that greets members coming into the office to pay a bill, get information or sign up for service.

She officially retired June 6 to have more time for "grandkids, baseball games, enjoying my flower beds like I've always wanted, a little lake time and just getting to stay home," she said.

"I've enjoyed my nice office and watching these guys (WCE linemen, many of whom started during her career) grow up, the members and my job in general," she said.



Brandy Dukes is promoted to Member Services supervisor

Former Member Services Representative Brandy Dukes accepted the position of Member Services supervisor in May. She started her career at WCE in 2019 as an MSR at the Higginsville location.

"I'm looking forward to leading a great team, finding new ways to connect with our members, and making their experience even better as we work to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity," she said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to grow within a company that truly values its members and the communities we serve."

Dukes will work with Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer and the Member Services Department on all things member related.

"The people are why I love working at WCE. Whether it's our members or my co-workers, there's a real sense of community here. I appreciate the chance to make a difference, learn something new every day, and work alongside a team that truly cares," she said.



Jeff Campbell marks 34-year career at West Central Electric

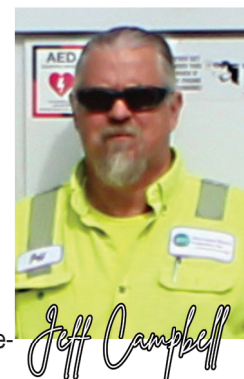
After a career spanning 34 years at West Central Electric Cooperative, Jeff Campbell officially retired in April.

Campbell began in June 1991 as summer help, and was hired full time in October of that year as a ground source heat pump laborer. For the next 10 years, he rose through the ranks of groundman/truck driver, the apprentice program and journeyman lineman. In 2008 he accepted the position of serviceman, which he held at his retirement.

"An advantage I enjoyed the most was being able to work outside and not be stuck in an office for eight hours a day," he said. "I also enjoyed meeting people and being able to help them out with their electricity needs and issues. They were usually very appreciative when their power is out and we could get them back on."

Campbell said the biggest changes during his career were going from a paper, pen and radio system to new technology like GPS maps, cell phones, computers and iPads.

He plans to spend more time with his family and grandchildren.



From your cooperative

\$2,000 GRANT



Helen's House

Clothing and shoes for Odessa School Dist. kids

\$1,000 GRANT



Santa Fe FFA

Back Snack Program -- Easter holiday packs

\$550 GRANT



Odessa School District Elem. Phys. Ed.

Fly Fishing for Beginners project

\$1,670 GRANT



Wellington-Napoleon School District

Piccolo for band department

\$2,720 GRANT



Crest Ridge Schools Cougar Closet

Funding for school clothes closet

\$1,000 GRANT



Camp Agape

Summer day camp

\$1,000 GRANT



Higginsville Montessori Schoolhouse

Wellness Initiative

\$738 GRANT



Warrensburg Middle School Choir

Harmony Director keyboard

From your cooperative



WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC ROUNDUP FOUNDATION

Proudly Funded by West Central
Electric Cooperative Members

"Participating in Operation RoundUp costs WCE members literally only pennies, but we can do so much good and benefit so many with what amounts to less than a handful of change per month. The maximum any one member could contribute in a year is \$11.88, and the average is around \$6 or \$7 per year. That amounts to less than a fancy cup of coffee."

--Amy Hoover
RoundUp Foundation President

Thank you
WCE members!

\$200 GRANT



City of Holden City Lake
Expanded Outdoor Experience

\$1,764 GRANT



Friends of Lone Jack 33, Inc.
Pinewood Derby track for local Scouts



WCE Operations Manager Scott Gard (left) presents Gavin Ohrenberg of Concordia High School with the 2025 West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

Ohrenberg is awarded WCE EDS Scholarship

West Central Electric Cooperative has named Gavin Ohrenberg of Concordia as the winner of the 2025 West Central Electric Cooperative Electrical Distributions Systems Scholarship.

The scholarship program offers a college scholarship worth up to \$5,000 per year to an area student or students interested in pursuing a degree or certificate in electrical distribution systems in an accredited EDS program. This scholarship also provides on-the-job training, including a required, paid internship at West Central Electric Cooperative, as well as an employment opportunity with the cooperative following the successful completion of the program and internship.

Ohrenberg plans to attend State Technical College of Missouri.

"I became interested in a career as a lineman after taking electricity classes in 4-H and job shadowing with a local lineman," Ohrenberg said. "After graduating from college, I would like to work and serve in the community where I grew up."

Ohrenberg will begin his EDS program this fall with an internship slated for summer 2026.

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 24, 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. April 24, 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 March 27, 2025; expenditures for the month of March 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the March 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 and the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for April margins. She gave updated budget numbers. The payment to Federated Insurance and investments were discussed. New services conducted were reported on. The financial reports were accepted as presented. The audit was reported on and provided to the board. No deficiencies were found. The board approved the audit.

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 outages caused by a transmission line outage. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He reported the new digger truck should be arriving soon and he discussed maintenance of trucks. He reported on how the mechanics reports are made. 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 March 31, 2025, employees have worked 880 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 39,397 miles as of the end of March without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He reported that NW gave a presentation at the Bates City Substation. A double-deck conversion was reported on. Updates on SCADA and Lone Jack were given. The Hwy. 13 project 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, Youth Tour and awards night, and he discussed meetings attended, including employee-training. He gave a net metering report. Chamber meetings attended were reported on.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SECTION 3 – REQUIREMENT FOR SERVICE

Newland and Nelson led the discussion on potential changes to Section 3 –



Requirement for Service. The board voted to approve with staff's recommended change.

DISCUSS SECTION 5, COST OF OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND NEW SERVICES

Nelson discussed aid-in-construction for line extensions and costs of overhead of the co-op. No changes will be made to the policy.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Dowell presented a written report.

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION

A discussion was held regarding the annual meeting to be held on Aug. 1. Food menu options were discussed. Advanced balloting will be held as it normally has been held.

AMEC REPORT

Newland gave the AMEC report. He reported on storm damage throughout the state, director courses and gave an AECL update.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. The annual meeting was discussed, including the AECL speakers who spoke at the annual meeting. A discussion was held on whether to move the meeting to one or two days, the board's consensus was to stay at two days, but consider moving it to March instead of April.

APPOINT CFC AND FEDERATED ANNUAL MEETING VOTING DELEGATE

Dowell was appointed as the voting delegate for the CFC and Federated annual meeting.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Sheri Smiley gave the legal report for the month. She also reported on the current status of Prop A and the need to amend the sick leave policy should Prop A go into effect on May 1. A motion was made and passed to amend the sick leave policy to conform with Prop A should it go into effect.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the Manager's Report. He gave employment updates and an update on new meters and contract negotiations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:10 a.m. and was out at 11:56 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$3,391,336	\$12,203,315	\$9,406,893
Power Bill Expense	1,976,738	6,819,861	5,408,574
Operation & Maintenance Expense	783,358	2,260,933	1,949,183
Depreciation Expense	216,746	648,495	623,297
Interest Expense	145,363	421,144	381,695
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,122,205	10,150,433	8,362,749
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	269,131	2,052,882	1,044,144
Other Margins	56,556	103,784	77,242
TOTAL MARGINS	\$325,687	\$2,156,666	\$1,121,386