



West Central Electric Cooperative

July 2026

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Electric News

SAVE THE DATE!

West Central Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting is August 28, 2026



Annual Meeting

Important Reminders

Find all the details here
page 3

Always Working for Our Members

Co-op leaders visit
with legislators in D.C.
page 4

National Police Week

WCE backs the blue
page 6

West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.



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To report outages 24/7

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

From the manager's desk

Reliability goes deeper than just making sure the power flows



Michael Newland
General Manager

One of the greatest things about working for an electric cooperative is the opportunity to serve our members every day. That is how it started way back in the 1930s, and that is how it remains today.

The men and women who work at West Central Electric, and those who lead on your board of directors take genuine pleasure in striving to make our communities a better place, and to make life in those communities better for those who live there.

You hear us talk a lot about reliability, and reliability of your electric system is important, but reliability goes deeper than just making sure the power flows.

We want our members to know you can rely on us to be looking out for your best interests. You can rely on us to always be looking for ways we can support your communities through donations of time and funding for important projects. You can rely on us to advocate for you regarding legislation and decisions that our political leaders make that could affect your electric rates and ultimately your way of life.

You can rely on us to work diligently to ensure every dollar we spend is the best possible value for your money and your cooperative. You can rely on us to support the youth through various co-op programs that provide scholarships and other opportunities for them to learn and grow.

Over the past few months, we have gotten some great chances to put all of that into action. This spring, cooperative leaders from around the state and nation spent time in Washington, D.C. talking to our elected officials about life in rural America. Making sure our legislators do not become detached from the rural way of life, and that they understand the concerns that face rural citizens is one of the most important roles we can play.

We also took some time to drop a little something by our area police departments and sheriffs' offices during National Police Week. We sincerely appreciate our law enforcement officers and the role they play in keeping our communities safe. It was nice to be able to show them they are valued.

In addition to our own scholarship programs, we were happy to join many of our fellow cooperatives in offering four scholarships to members visiting the Missouri Electric Cooperatives Building at the state fair.

Reliability could be defined as "the quality of being trustworthy or of performing consistently well." At WCE, we all strive every single day to be worthy of that definition. That was the intent when our founders started this cooperative, and that remains our goal today.

Sincerely,
Michael Newland, CPA
General Manager

WCE offices will be closed Friday, July 3. Have a safe and happy holiday!

What you need to know

2026 Annual Meeting Reminders:

• DATE CHANGE:

Due to a schedule change from our venue provider, your annual meeting date has moved to Friday, Aug. 28, 2026. The athletic center at the University of Central Missouri will be undergoing resurfacing of the floor, which will not be completed in time for our normal meeting date.

• REGISTRRTION CARD:

Your annual meeting member registration card will come to you in your AUGUST ISSUE of Rural Missouri Magazine. These cards should be brought to the annual meeting on AUG. 28 to register for prizes and to vote in the director election.

• ADVANCED VOTING:

Members unable to attend the annual meeting may participate in ADVANCED VOTING. Each member will receive a ballot and return envelope in the AUGUST ISSUE of Rural Missouri, along with instructions on how to participate. (*NOTE: Advanced voting ballots must be received by Aug. 27 in order to be counted.)

2026
WCE Annual Meeting
Friday, August 28, 2026

Jerry M. Hughes
Athletics Center
University of
Central Missouri



Missouri electric cooperatives offer scholarships again 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 13-23. 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. 23, 2026, by the close of the building at 6 p.m.
- Applicants will be notified if they are awarded a scholarship by Sept. 25, 2026.

CRITERIA

- Applicants must have permanent residency in Missouri.
- Applicant (or parent) must be a member of an electric cooperative in good standing.
- Applicants must be accepted as a 2026 full-time student at a college, university and/or a vocational, technical school program for the upcoming academic semester.
- Applicants must complete and submit a scholarship application at the Missouri's Electric Cooperatives building during the Missouri State Fair by Sunday, August 23.

The Missouri Electric Cooperative scholarship was established in 2021. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to member individuals enrolled full-time in a college, university and/or a vocational, technical school. Applicants must show a letter of acceptance from a college, university and/or a vocational, technical school if picked to receive the scholarship.

West Central Electric Cooperative Electric News

From your cooperative

WORKING FOR OUR MEMBERS



WCE General Manager Michael Newland addresses electric cooperative leaders at the 2026 NRECA Legislative Conference prior to their visits with elected officials in Washington, D.C. (Below) WCE board member Colby Dowell in a session with Congressman Emanuel Cleaver.

“Every conversation we have in Washington comes back to one thing — keeping the lights on for the families and businesses we serve. These policies matter because they directly affect reliability, affordability and the future of rural communities.”

--Caleb Jones, CEO, Association of Mo. Electric Co-ops

More than 1,500 electric cooperative leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., April 26–28 to represent their fellow members and advocate for policies that ensure reliable, affordable electricity for rural America. Missouri’s delegation of 60 co-op directors, CEOs and leaders attended the annual legislative conference organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



While meeting with congressional staff and policy leaders, Missouri co-op representatives advocated for common-sense solutions to keep rural America’s lights on. Those key issues include:

Affordable financing for power systems – Increase funding for federal loan programs that help electric cooperatives build and maintain power lines as costs rise and infrastructure ages.

Reliable, low-cost hydropower – Support changes that make it easier to fund and manage federal hydropower, helping keep electricity rates stable.

Fair broadband rules – Ensure electric cooperatives aren’t subject to new regulations that could raise costs or slow efforts to expand high-speed internet in rural areas.

Faster disaster recovery – Improve federal emergency programs so communities can restore power and rebuild infrastructure more quickly after storms and natural disasters.

From your cooperative

New Employee Spotlight



Emily Houston • Member Service Rep.

Emily Houston has joined West Central Electric Cooperative as a member services representative at the Oak Grove location.

Houston said she looks forward to connecting with members, answering questions and helping resolve concerns in a way that makes their day better.

“Since I am a member myself, I already understand what it’s like to rely on WCE for reliable power and good support, so I can approach every interaction with genuine empathy and that shared perspective,” she said. “At the same time, I am excited to join a team in our rural community, and learn how we all work together to best serve our members.”

Houston lives in Higginsville with her husband, Matt, and children Dakota and Wesley.

New Employee Spotlight



Taylor Grafton • Member Service Rep.

Member services representative Taylor Grafton said she is excited to join West Central Electric because the cooperative is member-owned and truly serves the community.

Grafton is members’ initial contact when they visit the Higginsville location.

“I look forward to learning, growing and contributing to work that makes a meaningful difference for the members WCE serves,” she said.

Taylor lives in Higginsville with her children Maddie, Hudson and Owen and partner, Jeremy Lile.

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From your cooperative



We Back the Blue

“West Central Electric employees were honored to show our appreciation for the officers and deputies of the police departments and sheriffs’ offices within our service area during **National Police Week.**”

— Heather Hoflander, Communications Specialist

According to the calendar, every month during the year has special days or weeks set aside for holidays, observances, and awareness. We recognize groups, events and even food. One of those weeks in May is National Police Week.

National Police Week was established by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to honor officers who have fallen in the line of duty, support survivors and their families, and commend our law enforcement officers for their dedication and courage shown in protection of our local communities. The week includes Peace Officers Memorial Day, which specifically honors those killed in the line of duty.

“West Central Electric employees were honored to show our appreciation for the officers and deputies of the police departments and sheriffs’ offices within our service area with special deliveries during National Police Week,” Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander said. “We wanted to take the time to thank them for all they do to keep our communities safe.”

Co-op personnel visited the active police departments in our service area including Bates City, Buckner, Concordia, Corder, Grain Valley, Higginsville, Holden, Knob Noster, Leeton, Lexington, Lone Jack, Napoleon, Oak Grove, Odessa, Warrensburg, Waverly and Wellington police departments, as well as the Johnson, Jackson and Lafayette County sheriffs’ offices.



Electrical Safety *around* Water

Prevent
shocks around
pools, hot tubs and
spas before
they happen.



- Use a qualified electrician for any new pool, hot tub or spa wiring.
- Use covered outdoor outlets.
- Make sure outlets are GFCI-protected and tested monthly.
- Keep cords away from water. Don't use extension cords for pool equipment.
- Replace cracked outlet covers, frayed cords, loose plugs or damaged equipment.
- Choose battery-operated and waterproof TVs, radios and speakers.
- Don't handle phones, tablets, laptops or charging cords when you're wet, and keep them away from pools, spas and sinks.
- Check power line clearance with an electrician or your utility when installing pools, spas and structures like diving boards; and have utilities marked before digging.
- Schedule periodic electrical inspections and upgrades for your equipment.
- Have an electrician show you how to shut off all power in an emergency and make sure the shut-off switch is labeled.

Know the risks: Wet skin + wet surfaces = increased risk when electricity is present.

Warning signs of shock in the water:

- Tingling sensation.
- Muscle cramps.
- Restricted movement.

If you suspect electrical shock:

- Turn off all power immediately.
- Do NOT enter the water to rescue anyone.
- Use a non-conductive rescue tool (such as fiberglass).
- Call 911.

If you feel a shock in the water, move away from the source and get out.

 Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held April 23, 2026.

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the cooperative in Higginsville, Mo. at 9:30 a.m. April 23, 2026, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Jeremy Ahmann, Stan Rhodes and Elizabeth Houtsma Colby Dowell was absent. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting on March 26, 2026; expenditures for the month of March 2026; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the treasurer's report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker presented the March 2026 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. She reported on interest rates, the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for March. She gave updated budget numbers. She reviewed investments. Equity was reported on. The cash flow statement was reviewed. The audit is being finalized. New services connected were reported on. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following staff reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written operations report. He reported on crews, mechanic and fleet, and outages and causes including issues from storms. He also reported on maintenance, brush crews, right-of-way and new services.

Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written engineering report. He reported on new subdivisions. The OO Highway conversion and pole changes were reported on.

Safety Report

Safety and Compliance Manager Cody Brock gave a safety report. Safety meetings and crew visits were reported on. It is work zone awareness week. One injury that required stitches was reported on. Audits were reported on. He reported on the NRECA Safety Leadership Summit in St. Louis. Flagger training was given. As of March 31, 2026, the employees worked 1,245 days without a lost-time accident and drove 35,390 miles for the month.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided a written member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, the communication department activities, and presentations by the co-op at local schools. The English Scholarship interviews took place. Net metered solar systems and rebates were reported on. The Youth Tour and CYCLE winners were announced. The new Touchstone Energy SHINE website was reported on.



AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft provided reports from the April 1 meeting, and provided department reports. The director's conference in July was reported on. An AECL update and a legislative update were given.

NW BOARD REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW board report. The annual meeting was discussed and directors who attended gave reports. They reported that at the reorganizational meeting the same officers were elected. They reported on margins, deferred revenue, and equity. The board voted to change NW to a taxable status.

MATT MOORE, MOORE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, LLC

Matt Moore appeared via Zoom and provided additional information regard the REDLG program.

ANNUAL MEETING

Issues with the date of the annual meeting caused by the university having a new basketball court installed were discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to move the annual meeting to Aug. 28, 2026 to accommodate the university. The meal will be the same as last year.

ROUNDUP FOUNDATION REPORT

Newland and Kim Lewis gave the RoundUp Foundation report. New members and awards were reported on.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

The board reviewed the self-assessment results. Going forward, directors' expenses will be reviewed by one board member and the treasurer.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

He reported on staffing and right-of-way. A discussion was held on having a supplemental bucket crew come. It would impact the budget by \$125,000.00 a year. The budget was amended by that amount to continue to allow the supplemental bucket crew. Clothing with logos was discussed. Strategic planning with CFC was reported on. He reviewed board per diems and this will be discussed at a later time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:38 a.m. and was out at 11:53 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2026 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Revenue	\$3,196,532	\$12,198,883	\$12,203,315
Power Bill Expense	1,954,268	6,706,384	6,819,861
Operation & Maintenance Expense	728,371	2,150,621	2,260,933
Depreciation Expense	226,534	679,234	648,495
Interest Expense	<u>152,051</u>	<u>441,158</u>	<u>421,144</u>
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,061,224	9,977,397	10,150,433
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	135,308	2,221,486	2,052,882
Other Margins	<u>65,646</u>	<u>152,356</u>	<u>103,784</u>
TOTAL MARGINS	\$200,954	\$2,373,842	\$2,156,666